



KENT ON SUNDAY



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No.435 January 23, 2011

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FREE

LIFE-SAVING SCREENING MISSED BECAUSE OF 'EMBARRASSMENT'

Stark warning to women over cervical cancer test

By **MARIJKE COX**

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THOUSANDS of young women are risking their lives by missing crucial screening tests for cervical cancer.

Figures released by Kent's three primary care trusts revealed a significant number aged between 25-29 failed to keep their appointments for the potentially life-saving procedure, known as a smear test.

Health chiefs are warning them that if they fail to come forward they risk losing their lives, like reality TV star Jade Goody, who died from the disease in March, 2009, aged just 27.

The shocking figures come after low take-up rates by Kent schoolgirls of a jab to protect them against cervical cancer.

The disease is the second most common cancer to affect women under 35, with 1,000 deaths in England each year – and many of those victims had not been regularly screened.

In Medway, nearly 3,000 women – 31 per cent – and in West Kent, 6,214 women – 29 per cent – in the 25-29 age group did not attend their smear tests.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent figures were broken down into areas; in Canterbury a shocking 37 per cent failed to get screened; in Ashford 31 per cent; Dover 30 per cent; Shepway 31 per cent; Swale 28 per cent; and Thanet 31 per cent.

In the past five years 35,490 women from all age groups, including the over-30s who are more likely to attend appointments, chose not to get tested in Eastern and Coastal Kent.

Continued on page two



TRIBUTES FOLLOW SUSANNAH YORK'S FINAL KENT CALLING

For full story see inside

Robbery and sex offences on the up

SERIOUS crimes including robberies, burglaries and sex offences are on the increase.

According to latest Home Office figures, the number of drug offences and thefts in Kent also went up during the 12 months between October, 2009, and last September.

However, overall crime in Kent fell by 3.9 per cent to a total of 108,000 offences. This includes reductions in violent crime as well as criminal damage and offences against vehicles.

Police have also revealed how one-in-three motorists stopped in a Christmas drink-drive campaign failed or refused a breath test.

FULL STORY - PAGE 5

Exiled keeper to sign for Lashings

FORMER Pakistan wicketkeeper Zulqairnan Haider will make his debut for the Lashings World XI in May providing he receives a work permit in time.

Zulqairnan fled to the UK in November, claiming he had been threatened by an alleged match-fixing ring and he met Lashings owner David Folb to discuss joining the Kent side.

Initially, it seemed red tape would prevent a deal being done, but Zulqairnan now hopes to be involved in Lashings' first game of the summer on May 27.

FULL STORY - SEE SPORT

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For reader enquiries about our campaign email keepkentworking@kosmedia.co.uk.

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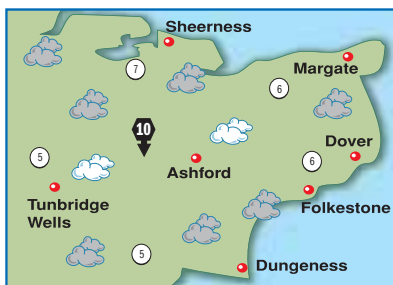
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Kent today



TODAY: Mostly cloudy with a few spots of light rain or drizzle. A few brighter interludes will develop during the afternoon. A moderate northerly wind. Max temp 4-7°C (39-45°F). **TONIGHT:** Mostly dry through the night, but it will be fairly cloudy. Min temp 3-6°C (37-43°F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	8	46	London	cloudy	7	45
Belfast	cloudy	7	45	Liverpool	cloudy	6	43
Birmingham	cloudy	6	43	Manchester	cloudy	6	43
B'mouth	cloudy	6	43	Newcastle	cloudy	6	43
Bristol	cloudy	5	41	Norwich	cloudy	7	45
Cardiff	cloudy	7	45	Oxford	cloudy	6	43
Cork	cloudy	5	41	Southsea	cloudy	6	43
Edinburgh	fair	6	43	S'hampton	cloudy	6	43
Glasgow	cloudy	7	45	Southport	cloudy	6	43
Isle of Man	fair	7	45	Swansea	fair	6	43
Leeds	cloudy	6	43	Torquay	cloudy	6	43

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.47am	Sunset	4.27pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	9.54pm	Moonsset	8.58am	4.27pm to 7.46am

High Tides

		today				tomorrow			
			ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	01.05	7.0	13.24	6.8		01.49	6.9	14.11	6.6
Margate	01.56	4.9	14.30	4.8		02.41	4.9	15.17	4.7
St Mary's	06.57	6.0	19.20	5.7		07.40	5.8	20.04	5.5

Week ahead

monday Fairly cloudy. max 6C min 1C	thursday Patchy drizzle. max 6C min 2C
tuesday Light showers. max 7C min 2C	friday Light cloud. max 7C min 1C
wednesday Patchy drizzle. max 7C min 2C	saturday Sunny spells. max 0C min 6C

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League tables give an 'unfair' picture of school performance

Teachers' work with special needs pupils is ignored

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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EDUCATION chiefs in Kent have asked the Government to take special needs provision into account before publishing potentially damaging school league tables.

Secondary schools that contain a high number of children with special educational needs (SEN) often achieve lower than average GCSE results, and in some cases less than the National Challenge target of 30 per cent of pupils score five A* to C grades including English and maths.

Headteachers say this creates a negative perception of schools that in reality are helping SEN pupils obtain far better grades than would usually be expected of them.

Kent County Council has now written to education secretary Michael Gove asking the Government to come up with a fairer system.

One school that suffers from the current arrangements is the Malling School in East Malling, which has the largest SEN unit in the county and is included in the National Challenge scheme due to only 26 per cent of pupils achieving five A* to C grades including English and maths.

"Significant pressures are put on you if you fall below the 30 per cent target but we are

being judged unfairly," said principal Carl Roberts. "Without the SEN unit we'd have hit 34 per cent last year."

"It's an absolute travesty when you look at the value added to these students. Our teachers work really hard and are so skilled at understanding their needs and getting them up there. But despite all that a league table comes out that puts us at the bottom and then people start using words like 'failing' and 'underachieving', and it's absolutely wrong."

"We should level the playing field by removing the results of SEN pupils so we can be judged the same as every other school."

In the letter to Mr Gove, KCC cabinet member for education Cllr Sarah Hohler claims the system provides disincentives for the development of further mainstream SEN provision.

She also calls for the Government to come

up with a new way of judging a school's achievements as part of a forthcoming Green Paper on the subject.

Gravesend-based education adviser Peter Read said he felt sorry for the schools, which he claims may never reach the National Challenge benchmark under the current system.

He added: "The Malling School should clearly be doing better than that. It's just another factor that makes league tables not credible, but even Ofsted places more emphasis on exam performance so schools with SEN units are being penalised across the board."

"The only answer I can see offhand is that the results of mainstream pupils be counted separately to those of SEN children."

A spokeswoman for the Department for Education said it would be replying to the KCC letter "in due course".

She added: "Recognising the achievements and progress of all children and young people – including those with special educational needs and disabilities – is an important priority for the Government."

"The forthcoming Green Paper on SEN will be looking at how we could report the progress of the lowest-attaining 20 per cent of students in the performance tables."

"We will be seeking views as part of the consultation that follows its publication."

Regular screening could save your life

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Figures are taken from a five-year period, where women aged 25-49 are invited for a test every three years, and those aged 50 to 64 every five years.

After Jade Goody's death there was a sharp rise in the number coming forward, but the uptake dropped back down.

Dr Alison Barnett, Medway's director of public health, said cervical cancer is a preventable disease if women get checked.

"Regular screening allows abnormalities to be picked up and treated before they become cancerous," he said.

"I would encourage all women who have been invited, but have not attended their screen, to make an appointment."

"Some women feel uncomfortable with the idea of having a cervical screening test, but they need to be reassured that the screening is done by experienced professionals who carry out this procedure every day. It's quick and easy and could save your life."

Paula McLachlan, screening programmes manager for Kent and Medway, said although

cervical cancer was the second most common to affect women under the age of 35 it is nearly always preventable.

"Regular cervical screening, available free on the NHS, is one of the best ways to stop cervical cancer in its tracks," she said.

"Our message is: When you get your cervical screening invitation – make your appointment straight away. It could save your life."

The drop in uptake of smear tests has promoted the NHS to launch a new campaign called Relax Girls – We've Seen It All Before aimed at 25-34-year-olds.

Ms McLachlan said: "We've found that one of the main reasons why younger women don't attend is embarrassment."

"If a woman attends her first appointment at age 25 she is more likely to attend future screening appointments throughout her life."

"Older women are generally more used to being screened, so we're approaching mums, grandmothers and aunts too with a message that even if your daughter is all grown up you can still keep her safe, by reminding her about the importance of screening."

The NHS offers cervical screening free to all women aged 25-64. The test does not diagnose cancer, but checks for changes in the cervix early so treatment can be offered before the disease can become advanced.

A national immunisation programme was rolled out in September, 2008, to vaccinate girls aged 12-13 against cervical cancer followed by a three-year catch-up campaign offering the jab to 13-18-year-olds.

Figures released in August last year revealed that girls were failing to complete the course of three HPV (human papillomavirus) injections, which meant they were not fully protected against the virus.

In the NHS Medway area 5,967 girls failed to complete the course, and in NHS West Kent 14,033 girls missed at least one jab.

Figures for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent were unavailable, although the trust could confirm 14,000 girls had been vaccinated.

• See or www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk or www.jostrust.org.uk or call Jo's Trust Cervical Cancer Helpline on 0808 802 8000 for more details.

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DAMAGE: Vodka eyeballing can lead to permanent cornea scarring, doctors say

Eyeballing craze gives new twist to 'blind drunk'

A DRINKING craze that involves youngsters pouring spirits such as vodka into their eyes could cause permanent scarring and blindness, medical experts have warned.

The bizarre practice, which has been dubbed vodka eyeballing, has become increasingly popular among young drinkers wanting to get drunk as quickly as possible, as they believe the alcohol is absorbed directly into the bloodstream.

But medical experts say there is no truth to the theory and have warned those playing the dangerous game that it could have serious long-term effects on their vision.

Reports say teenagers have even been pouring absinthe – which can be 75 per cent proof – into their eyes, which could have an abrasive effect on the cornea.

Tom Pey, the chief executive of the Royal London Society for Blind People, which runs a nursery, school and further education college for the visually impaired at Dorton House in Seal, said: "There is a growing body of opinion suggesting that putting vodka into your eyes has a similar effect as bleach.

Abrasive

"There is a real risk that the vodka will act like an abrasive and attack the cornea, causing significant scarring. I say to people: 'Don't do it. There's no need to pickle your eyes. Stick to a tipple'."

Dr James Thallon, a GP in Tunbridge Wells and the medical director at NHS West Kent, said: "Pouring vodka, or any alcohol, into your eye is going to be painful and could potentially cause permanent damage. This is a dangerous thing to do and I would strongly urge people not to try it."

Dr Cindy Tromans, the president of the College of Optometrists, agreed, saying: "Vodka eyeballing is like pouring bleach in your eye – it's extremely painful."

She added that if people repeatedly pour a spirit into their eye it "could cause permanent corneal scarring and potential loss of vision".

The trend is believed to have originated in clubs in Las Vegas, where waitresses would pour spirits into their eyes to receive more tips. But its popularity among university students and teenagers in this country is now causing growing concern.

A former student, who previously participated in vodka eyeballing, told a national newspaper that after having problems with her sight she was recently referred to an eye specialist, who told her that the alcohol has seared through her cornea.

The young woman said: "I've been told it could lead to complications and can cause blindness, which is terrifying."

To view, search 'Beckham' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



A controversial artwork showing footballer David Beckham on the cross has caused an international debate on free speech. See page 11 for the full story.

Actress Susannah York 1939-2011



MOVIE GREAT: The late Susannah York, right, on the set of *The Calling*, made in Thanet, with Frances Patterson, the Broadstairs-based line producer for Maeve Films

Starring role in Kentish hearts

A FILM-MAKER who directed Sixties icon Susannah York's last ever movie has paid tribute to the actress, who died last weekend, *writes Marijke Cox.*

Jan Dunn, who runs Thanet-based production company Maeve Films, told KoS that despite knowing the 72-year-old was ill, the announcement of her death came as a great shock.

"It will be a big loss to the film industry – *The Calling* was the last film she did, but she had another one in her," said Ms Dunn. "She should have been given a lifetime achievement award. She should have been recognised by women in film."

Ms Dunn wrote and directed *The Calling*, which also stars Ramsgate-born actress Brenda Blethyn and tells the story of a young woman who wants to become a nun.

It followed the company's first two award-winning films, *Ruby Blue* and *Gypo*, and opened the London Independent Film festival last year.

York got involved after a chance meeting at the Cambridge Film Festival in 2008, where she and Ms Dunn were both screening their films.

Oscar-nominated York agreed to be part of the movie, which was shot in and around Thanet on a tight budget of £500,000.

Raw edge

Speaking to Archant KOS Media ahead of *The Calling's* release last year, York – who played a psychotic Mother Superior – said: "I met Jan about a year before we started filming. I had seen some of her other work as a director and I liked her raw edge, the acting she got out of the stars, and the whole spirit of her films."

"I thought making *The Calling* would be a great lark, and actually it was."

"Independents and people like Jan need support. They get things done by sheer grit and determination."

Ms Dunn said securing York for the film was a "big coup".

"She had an affect on everybody," she said. She was very measured and thoughtful, but was quite wild in some of her suggestions, in a very creative way.

"Her performances would be melodramatic and it was a joy to watch. The character had a sense of oddness about it. "Susannah had a real energy. And

that voice – I remember the first time I spoke to her on the telephone."

Ms Dunn said York had been ill for some time and throughout the production of *The Calling*. York, who lived in Clapham, was awarded a Bafta as best supporting actress for 1969's *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* as well as being nominated for an Oscar and Golden Globe. She also starred in *The Battle of Britain* (1969), with some scenes filmed at The Jackdaw pub in Denton.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Marquis served up rising star award

A RESTAURANT near Dover has been given a 'rising star' award in the annual Michelin guide.

The accolade is given to eateries in line for a Michelin star in the future, giving the Marquis at Alkham – which is also a luxury hotel and wedding venue – added incentive to maintain its high standards.

Five Kent restaurants kept hold of their one-star ratings in this year's guide, but there were no additions to the county's elite.

They are the West House in Biddenden, Apicius in Cranbrook, Read's in Faversham, the Sportsman in Whitstable, and Chapter One in Bromley.

Meanwhile, the Number One B&B in Deal has been voted the fifth best bed-and-breakfast in the world.

Praised for its "fantastic hospitality, wonderful breakfasts and delightful rooms", the Victorian villa ranked high among voters in the annual Travellers' Choice Hotel Awards.

Pothole army blitz after winter blast

KENT County Council says it is about to launch an army of specialist tarmac firms on a month-long campaign to fix 'safety-critical' potholes across the county caused by the winter snow and ice.

The Kent small and medium-sized engineering firms are working alongside Kent Highway Services gangs in a £1 million drive to fix the potholes.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We know snow and ice causes damage to the roads and are absolutely determined to fix the potholes that recent freezing temperatures have created."

KCC is also launching a drive to recruit firms for a repair campaign in the summer – when weather conditions are more favourable.

Cllr Carter added: "We hope this will give a welcome boost to local business in these financially trying times."



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Serious crime is on the rise

BURGLARIES, robberies and sex and drug offences are on the rise in Kent, according to latest Home Office statistics.

The figures for the year October, 2009, to September, 2010, suggest police are struggling to get to grips with some of the most serious crimes affecting the county.

Burglaries increased by 2.3 per cent to 12,700, while robberies went up by six per cent to 936, sex offences rose up by 15.6 per cent to 1,520, and drug offences by 8.5 per cent to 4,310.

The number of thefts also rose by 3.8 per cent to a staggering 27,900.

Deputy Chief Constable Alan Pughsley said: "We have seen a continual decrease in burglaries over a number of years in Kent so this small increase is disappointing but we are determined to bring the figures back down."

"The increase in drugs offences recorded actually highlights our commitment to detecting and dismantling both organised crime groups involved in the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs, and individuals who peddle drugs."



CRIME FIGHTING:
Police say overall the figures are good

Despite the upward trend in the most serious offences, overall Kent crime has fallen by 3.9 per cent to 108,000. This includes reductions in violent crime – including knife and gun offences – as well as criminal damage and offences against vehicles.

DCC Pughsley said: "We have seen an overall reduction in crime over the past four years and these latest statistics are encouraging."

"But they also show us where there is room to continue our hard work and bring more criminals to justice. We will continue to tackle crime and disorder against Kent, keeping it one of the safest places in the UK."

Meanwhile, police have also revealed how one-in-three motorists stopped as part of a month-long Christmas drink-drive campaign either failed or refused a breath test.

Officers stopped 563 drivers between December 1 and New Year's Day, of whom 171 were arrested. The year before 1,397 were stopped, and 195 were arrested.

Inspector Paul Sellwood said: "It's clear that most motorists heeded our warnings not to drive in bad weather. However, the drink-drivers chose to ignore this advice as a third of those routinely stopped were arrested."

"Kent Police takes a zero tolerance approach to those who flout the law, and will continue to target drink and drug drivers."

To see this clip search 'cooking' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Students at K College are learning how to cook healthy food, inspired by popular TV chef Jamie Oliver

A SHIPBUILDER from Faversham hopes to help to rebuild one of Britain's most famous historic warships.

Riddled with rot, HMS Victory is gradually being pulled apart by its own weight because it is not adequately supported by the cradle built for it in Portsmouth's dockyard.

Auditors called in over care homes closure consultation

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT County Council is being reported to the Audit Commission over its handling of a consultation into care home closures.

Last week the authority's cabinet member for adult social services – Cllr Graham Gibbens – announced he was going ahead with the "modernisation programme" despite widespread opposition from elderly residents, carers and unions.

This involves the closure of four care homes and the selling-off or rebuilding of a further seven.

However, the issue is now being referred to the Audit Commission by Kent Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean over concerns about the way alternative proposals put forward by campaigners were assessed.

She said: "We are very disappointed that there have been no changes despite overwhelming opposition to the scheme, and we also have particular concerns about the lack of any independent assessment of the alternative proposals. These were all referred to an assessment panel made up entirely of KCC adult social services staff, who all have a personal interest because they were involved with the original plans."

"In our view, the alternatives were not robustly considered so I shall be referring the matter to the Audit Commission, which is the council's external auditor."

Should the commission agree with Cllr Dean then KCC may be recommended to take a second look at the alternatives.

The four care homes due for closure are Ladesfield in Whitstable, Sampson Court in Deal, The Limes in Dartford, and Lawrence House in Folkestone.

Bowles Lodge in Hawkhurst, Cornfields in Dover, and Manorbrooke in Dartford, are all set to be demolished and replaced with 'extra care' social housing where residents live independently but with carers available 24 hours a day.

John Porter's 89-year-old mother, who lives at Bowles Lodge, is blind, deaf and suffers from heart problems and osteo-



FEARS: There are concerns for the lives of elderly residents

porosis. His alternative proposal for the home to be turned into an enhanced respite centre was one of those dismissed by KCC.

Mr Porter said: "My proposal was kicked into touch before Cllr Gibbens made his decision, which I felt was premature because surely he should have had all the information when making such an important call."

"My mum could die as a consequence of having to move, no matter how carefully they

plan on doing it. That's my biggest concern."

The other homes involved are Wayfarers in Sandwich, which will be sold as a going concern, and three in Swale – Kiln Court in Faversham, Doubleday Lodge in Sittingbourne and Blackburn Lodge in Sheerness – that the council will effectively sell to the private sector, with an agreement retaining rights to places.

The fate of the Dorothy Lucy Centre in Maidstone will be decided later this year.

Cllr Graham Gibbens said: "Whenever we look at commissioning services, we do that ourselves through a well-established commissioning process with qualified officers."

"There is no requirement legally, and therefore there was no formal requirement, to set up an evaluation panel. We did so because of a determination to look at matters in detail and to be fair and transparent."

"The alternatives were reviewed against the four main reasons behind the proposals by qualified and experienced officers representing each aspect of the organisation."

"The commissioning process has checks and balances built in, not least of which is the political scrutiny framework and the legal responsibility carried by the statutory post of director of adult social services."

Meanwhile, Cllr Dean has also questioned the timing of the reorganisation, given that a government White Paper is due to be published in July that could present new opportunities for social care funding.

The recommendations are being drawn up by the Independent Commission for Funding of Care and Support, chaired by Andrew Dilnot.

Death crash driver given work order

A MAN who caused the death of a grandmother by careless driving has been handed a sentence of 200 hours community service.

David Anning, 20, of The Street, Appledore, pleaded guilty to causing the death of 62-year-old Gillian Lowndes, pictured, in Tenterden last year.

The grandmother of seven, from Hereford Road, Maidstone, was killed when Anning's White Ford Transit van hit her car on the A262 in August.

Anning was ordered to pay £85 in costs and disqualified from driving for a year.

Mrs Lowndes has been described by friends and family as a "loving mother and grandmother with a heart of gold".



Craftsman Colin Frake has entered a bid to restore the 245-year-old flagship of Lord Horatio Nelson to its former glory.

One of only two craftsmen in the country to specialise in blocks, pulleys and deck fittings for traditional boats, Mr Frake supplied most of the fittings for the Cutty Sark a few years ago.

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THE INTERVIEW



BY MARIJKE COX

Growing reputation of unexpected gardener

VIEWED as one of the rising stars of British gardening, former teacher Jo Thompson has the horticultural world at her green fingertips.

Not only has the mum-of-two scooped gold and silver medals at the Chelsea Flower Show, she has also secured business with international clients all wanting a piece of her contemporary and bijou garden designs.

And adding to her busy, jetsetting life, Ms Thompson, from Marden, near Tonbridge, is often called upon to lecture students interested in following the same career path, and is due to visit landscape architects in Poland in March to share her expertise.

But the 43-year-old takes it all in her stride and admits she loves the "friendly" world she entered after a 10-year career as a drama teacher.

"I think I always had a sense that I was really interested in landscape," she said. "My father was Italian and I remember dragging my parents around villas and architecture in Italy when I was a child."

"I always had that interest in struc-

ture. When I was in London I developed my roof terrace as a bit of fun, but realised it was actually what I wanted to do. As a drama teacher I loved creating the sets and garden design is creating a stage that people can always use."

Intent on following her true passion, she enrolled in the English Gardening School and started a rigorous training programme, while juggling her role as the mother of two small children.

Entering the professional world of garden design in 2004, Ms Thompson's career moved from strength to strength and she is now working with clients across the country and as far away as Switzerland.

She also works year round at Ladem House in Goudhurst, the gardens of which open to the public each May.

In 2009 she scooped silver at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show for her therapeutic Demelza garden design, which is in the process of being created

at the children's hospice, near Sittingbourne.

The following year she scooped gold for another garden, called the Unexpected Gardener, designed for Thrive, a charity using gardening to change the lives of disabled people.

The design has now been created in its full glory, just outside Reading.

Ms Thompson said: "Gardening is an art form. I spent time researching in the National Gallery and very much take my inspiration from architecture."

"This job is different from being a teacher, which was nine to five. It's all-consuming, but it's lovely to do something I love."

Ms Thompson said gardening had changed through the years, with people seeing their gardens as an extension of their homes.

"People are trying to make gardens a year-round usable space – they want to make the most of the space they have," she said.

Unique

"I had somebody who wanted a pizza oven installed and another with an outdoor computer console."

"Some also want to be able to use their laptops in the garden, so I design shaded areas with sofas and tables."

As well as being recognised by the Garden Design Journal for her unique planting design skills, Ms Thompson has been named by Homes and Gardens magazine as one of the 10 rising stars in British gardening for 2011.

"That was amazing. The nine others are designers I really respect and I'm very proud to have been named among them," she said.

But with her busy, wide-ranging work, from tiny rooftop spaces to residential gardens, does she have enough time to tend to her own garden?

"It's actually quite small, although it looks out over orchards," she said.

"I'm making the space work. My children wanted a tree house and so I managed to put something up. I razed the garden when I first moved in and started again."

For more information, click on www.jothompson-garden-design.co.uk.



JO THOMPSON: 'I was always interested in landscape'



WINNER: Jo's Unexpected Gardener design for Thrive took gold at Chelsea

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Port shooting fears allayed

POLICE have moved to reassure people in Dover after the early hours shooting of a teenager.

Area commander Chris Hogben said people have nothing to fear following the attack in Frith Road, which left the 18-year-old in hospital after being shot on Tuesday.

He was taken to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, under an armed police escort, and later transferred to a London hospital for treatment to a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Doctors say he is in a serious but stable condition. A 17-year-old and an 18-year-old man were arrested. Police raided addresses in Dover and recovered a revolver.

Mr Hogben said: "Offences involving firearms are very rare and I don't think this should cause too much concern."

Ale and hearty

BREWER Shepherd Neame has welcomed new research claiming a pint of beer a day is good for your health.

Spanish researchers found that those who regularly drank moderate amounts of beer were less likely to suffer from diabetes and high blood pressure and had a lower body fat content. Beer contains folic acid, vitamins, iron and calcium which researchers said had a protective effect on the cardiovascular system.

Chief executive at the Faversham brewery, Jonathan Neame, said: "This supports what we've been saying for years – beer in moderation is good for your health."

The study was carried out by Barcelona university, the hospital clinic in the Catalan city, and the Carlos III institute of health in Madrid.

WPC attacked

A MAN has been charged with assaulting a female police officer.

Aaron Trotter, 23, of Saunders Street, Gillingham, is said to have lashed out at the officer at an address in Forge Lane.

Police were called to the home at 4.30pm on Wednesday, January 12, after reports of a domestic incident in which Trotter was allegedly being aggressive and smashing items within the house.

Trotter is alleged to have resisted arrest and assaulted a police officer. The female officer received minor head injuries.

Trotter was charged with criminal damage and assault occasioning actual bodily harm of a police officer.

He appeared before Medway magistrates and was released on bail until March 11.

Johnson detects shift towards 'Boris Island'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson has hinted that Government ministers may be warming to his controversial proposals for an airport off the north Kent coast.

The outspoken Tory's plans for a £40 billion airport in the Thames Estuary have been widely criticised since they were first put forward in September, 2008, as a possible solution to overcrowding at Heathrow.

And despite Prime Minister David Cameron's promise last October that the Coalition has no plans to build a new airport anywhere in Kent, Mr Johnson hinted this week that he was winning some ministers round to his way of thinking.

Boldness

"It's crazy, I think, to have another 200,000 air traffic movements over the skies of London coming to an airport in the western suburbs," he told Radio 4's Today programme on Tuesday. "I don't think the people of London will wear it. What I'm trying to do is shift public consciousness and get people aware that this is a long-term problem that's going to require boldness, and I think there are people in the Government who are starting to recognise that."

Mr Johnson's comments coincided with the release of a Transport for London report that said the UK economy would suffer unless a new hub airport was created in the South East.

The report added that the number of destinations that can be directly accessed from



BORIS JOHNSON:
Estuary airport plan



Heathrow was now 157 compared with 224 from Paris's Charles de Gaulle airport and 235 from Frankfurt. Shortly after the paper was released on Tuesday, Mr Johnson held a seminar in which he repeated the need for a new airport in the South East, without referring to the Thames Estuary as a possible location.

Both Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter and Medway Council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers have now called on the mayor to make his position clear.

Cllr Chambers revealed the deputy chairman of Transport for London, Daniel Moylan, had paid a visit to Medway before Christmas in an attempt to win support for the estuary scheme. Cllr Chambers said: "He asked me in this meeting if we would agree to an airport in the estuary if all the infrastructure for it – such as new train lines and roads – was based in Essex and not Kent."

"I responded that we in Medway cannot comment on what should or should not happen in Essex, and reaffirmed the opinion of

all at Medway Council and the vast majority of people in Kent that the mayor's island airport scheme is unnecessary, unworkable and unaffordable. Boris Johnson has tried to campaign for this airport but is now trying a new approach due to the resistance he has met from the huge amount of people who are against his plans."

Meanwhile, the RSPB has reiterated its opposition to the Boris Island scheme, describing it as a "pipe dream".

South East director Chris Corrigan said: "I'm sure the mayor doesn't want to go down in history as the man who decimated not just birds in the Thames, but global species too, while putting lives at risk due to bird strike."

"I'd urge him to drop this costly pursuit now and look to further strengthening, greening and improving London's public transport."

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The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at The Ark on the same day starting at 1:30pm and closing at 4:30pm. Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk.

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk.

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Loyalty scheme starts farm shops fightback

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

FARM shops have launched a revolutionary rewards scheme in a bid to win back business from supermarket chains.

It marks a major step forward for Kent's local producers, who have continued to struggle in the battle against big-name brands and store promotions such as the loyalty card. The scheme, which is being rolled out nationwide, is set to give customers an incentive to buy at farm shops where they can build up loyalty points.

The programme is being run by The ICE Organisation, which was set up in Tunbridge Wells to reward people who buy sustainable and energy-saving products and services from local shops.

Chief executive Jude Thorne said: "We're right behind the farm shops and have a real sense of the momentum growing as consumers seek greater value for themselves and act on their desire to spend with local suppliers rather than global behemoths."

"For the first time for many of these farm shops, customers will receive great value rewards for use against future purchases – in these tough times this value can't be ignored."

The scheme is the same as a supermarket loyalty card, where shoppers can earn points for money spent in participating shops.

Credits can be used for discounts when

they return. The programme is being backed by one of Kent's leading food companies, Foodari, based in Ashford, which specialises in providing quality locally sourced food to homes and businesses.

The company has been working with ICE on the project for two years.

Managing director Jonathan Parker said the loyalty scheme will have a positive impact on local shops and suppliers.

"Giving customers an incentive is always going to increase loyalty," he said. "Supermarkets make so much through these cards – everyone loves something that doesn't cost anything."

Mr Parker said the scheme also links in with Archant KOS Media's Keep Kent Working campaign.

"If people in Kent buy Kentish apples rather than South African or Chilean from supermarkets, that will affect the numbers of jobs for pickers and growers in the county," he said. "People should be aware of that."

Mr Parker said all the businesses he had spoken to wanted to get involved, although he admitted it would still be hard competing against the big supermarkets.

He said: "Supermarkets are here to stay. They are good at providing variety, but farm shops are good at providing seasonal, locally sourced produce which reduces food miles and is good for environmental credentials."

• Food producers and delivery companies are being urged to get involved. Click on www.myice.com or www.foodari.com for more details.



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KCC blueprint sets out passengers' and economic requirements for train travel

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

COUNTY Hall chiefs have unveiled a blueprint for changes to rail services which they say are needed to improve Southeastern's "substandard" provision.

The Rail Action Plan for Kent looks to make sure the new franchise, due to start in 2014, delivers a service that meets the needs of the county's commuters.

The contract with Southeastern runs out in 2012, but it is expected to be extended for two years despite MPs calling for it to be scrapped after recent criticism over the company's performance.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for highways, Cllr Nick Chard, said that to be worthy of winning a new franchise the company had to improve passenger rail information.

Objections

He also set out objections to the fare increases introduced earlier this month, where some routes saw a 12.8 per cent rise.

"We are aiming to achieve two things," he said. "Firstly, standing up for the people of Kent by representing the requirements of our travelling public.

"Secondly, developing a strategic rail network to help deliver the economic growth we need during the next 30 years. In the Rail Action Plan for Kent we have developed detailed service specifications and recommended changes, where necessary, to the existing franchise specification."

This included looking at the mainline routes after timetable changes in December, 2009, when High Speed One (HS1) was introduced.

Commuters in some parts of Kent argued they did not benefit from HS1, where the train did not speed up until Ebbsfleet, and instead were left with a

Southeastern must make 'radical improvements'



IN TRANSIT: Southeastern's franchise is expected to be extended to 2014 next year

reduced and overcrowded 'classic' service.

Problems during the severe weather in December were also highlighted in the document, which was drawn up using feedback from passengers, rail user groups,

MPs and district and parish councils.

Cllr Chard said: "While the service was terrible, with extended delays, cancellations and even overnight journeys, it was not these failures that most angered and frustrated Southeastern's commuters.

"It was overwhelmingly the almost complete lack of accurate and up-to-date information that caused the greatest complaints.

"To be worthy of winning a new franchise in 2014, Southeastern must radically improve their provision of information, ensuring that it is relevant, accurate and up-to-date when severe winter weather strikes.

Berated

"Anything less will be regarded, not just by us, but by other interested groups across the county, as totally unacceptable."

Despite its berated performance, Southeastern released statistics two weeks ago showing it had run 82.04 per cent of its trains on time in the last year.

Had the company fallen below the 82 per cent target it would have been liable to pay season ticket commuters compensation of five per cent off fares. The figures are now being challenged by MPs.

North Thanet MP Roger Gale said he believed they had been "massaged" by the inclusion of HS1.

"The figures used by Southeastern, which by a whisker have scraped above the compensation level, appear to have included the

performance of the HS1 premium service which, although not infallible, is more modern and more reliable in bad weather than the classic services.

"HS1 is, of course, of little or no value to commuters from most of east Kent who either cannot use the service or do not wish to travel to St Pancras.

"I am sure that if the HS1 performance figures were removed from the equation we would begin to see the real, ghastly figures that describe the service used by those commuting to and from work in London."

A Southeastern spokesman said punctuality and performance statistics were calculated using the standard industry methods and the process is audited annually independently and verified by Government.

"Each weekday we operate 2,100 train services with only 150 of them being high-speed services.

"So while of course they will contribute to the overall punctuality statistics for mainline and high-speed routes, the weight given to these services is proportionate," he said.

Consultation on the draft plan runs until February 28 and amendments will be included before a final version is presented at the Kent Rail Summit on April 19. It can be viewed at www.kent.gov.uk/railactionplan.

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From Iron Lady to iron rails: Mr Portillo makes TV tracks for Kent

FORMER Conservative defence secretary Michael Portillo has taken to the tracks to explore the history of Kent's railways in a new television series, writes Marijke Cox.

With a copy of 19th century cartographer George Bradshaw's Victorian railway guidebook in his pocket, Mr Portillo, who was once a contender for the Tory leadership, follows the route from Chatham to Shepway.

His travels through Kent are being shown on BBC2's Great British Railway Journeys this week, from Monday to Friday, at 6.30pm.

It forms part of the five-week series which sees the 57-year-old, who was a fervent supporter of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, travel around the UK by rail.

He said: "In 1840, one man transformed travel in Britain. His name was

George Bradshaw and his railway guide inspired the Victorians to take to the tracks. Stop by stop, he told them where to travel, what to see and where to stay.

"Now 170 years later, I'm making a series of journeys across the length and breadth of the country to see what of Bradshaw's Britain remains."

Mr Portillo travels through the county, from London Bridge around the scenic South East coast to Hastings.

In the first of the five Kent episodes, he visits the Royal Observatory at Greenwich to see how the railways standardised time, before exploring the Historic Dockyard in Chatham.

He then moves on to Aylesford and Tunbridge Wells to explore the life of Victorian hop-pickers, find out about Maidstone's revolutionary paper industry and learn how the railways turned cricket into a national sport.

The next episode sees him travelling to Canterbury through to Thanet.

"I find out how the cathedral was saved during the Baedeker raids of World War Two, go whelk fishing, and explore the origins of a seaside swim in Margate," he said.

The politician-turned-broadcaster moves on to seek out a secret port that ran the first train ferries to France carrying supplies during World War One.

He also visits Walmer Castle and goes on to discover how the Victorians initiated the building of the Channel Tunnel.

The final episode sees him visit Romney Marsh before researching the county's sparkling wine industry.

Mr Portillo held the Enfield Southgate seat between 1984 and 1997 and later returned to the Commons as MP for Kensington and Chelsea in 1999 before retiring at the 2005 general election.



TV GUIDE: Michael Portillo's Great British Railway Journeys

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Small businesses fear the strain of changed paternity allowance

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

PROPOSED changes to the maternity leave system have caused concern among Kent's business leaders who fear small firms may struggle to cope.

This week Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg outlined plans to let couples to share maternity leave, allowing fathers to take up any remaining time off if their partner goes back to work early.

Mothers can currently take up to a year off work in maternity leave.

Such a scheme would allow men to claim up to six months off work compared to the current allowance of just two weeks, which the Lib Dem leader described as "paltry".

However, business leaders in Kent say such changes could be unmanageable for small firms that only employ a few staff.

"I am a great believer in shared parenting and the strength of the family unit," said Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

"My own family is the most important thing in my life. I do feel, however, that the new proposals may be a step too far.

"Large organisations may be able to absorb such leave periods but individuals in smaller concerns can be crucial to the operation, and to cover additional absence could be difficult.

"There are other aspects too. Does this concentration on 'family friendly' policies impinge unfairly on workers without children?"

The first changes to the current maternity system are due to come into force in April, but Mr Clegg has said the Coalition will consult on a "proper" system of shared parental leave to be introduced in 2015.

This could result in grandparents and even close family friends being given the right to ask their employers for flexible hours.

He added that one idea being looked at was allowing parents to share the overall leave allowance – paid and unpaid – between them in one big chunk or in lots of chunks.

Andrew Aves, regional organiser for the Kent and Medway branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, said most small firms would prefer to work out their own arrangements.

He said: "When a business has only four or five members of staff, when one is away it leaves quite a big hole. It would have a totally disproportionate effect, which is why we ask that any arrangement is not statutory.

"Flexible working is something we're very much in favour of, but it should be negotiated between members of staff and business leaders because one size does not fit all.

"For example, if you run a small engineering firm then finding a temporary member of staff might not be that easy. It's not as if you can go to the job centre and ask for a skilled engineer for six months."

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Crucified Becks sparks freedom of speech debate

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL painting depicting David Beckham being crucified has sparked an international debate after complaints prompted a visit by police.

The 7ft picture, created by artist Johnny Cotter and hung outside his Folkestone gallery, showed the football legend nailed to a cross wearing an England shirt, loin cloth, and a crown of thorns.

But Mr Cotter took it down after becoming the target of a campaign and a subsequent visit from police.

The move, however, has sparked international debate, with the artist receiving calls from around the world, including Venezuela, Vietnam and Los Angeles, to discuss the painting and the decline of freedom of speech.

Eighties singer Boy George had also been in touch, citing an interest in the painting of the star who now plays for LA Galaxy, but has recently been linked with a loan move to Spurs.

Mr Cotter, 49, said the picture, called Let Me Listen to Me and Not to Them, was not intended to offend and was about lifestyle versus life goals, choices people made, and the cult of modern-day celebrity.

"This is not an anti-Christian painting, but the question of who we worship in the 21st century," he said.

"I chose Beckham because he is a modern celebrity.

"Although I like David Beckham, I believe he went to America for money, sacrificing his life-goal of winning the World Cup for his lifestyle."

He added: "It shows how powerful Beckham is, and the power of celebrity – if it was Jesus in that picture it wouldn't be a problem."

The painting of the 35-year-old former Manchester United and England star was put in the gallery win-

dow when Mr Cotter opened on November 1, and then a big print was put up outside in December.

He said all the money he made through his gallery was being used to support Folkestone's art industry, including funding 11 young artists in the upcoming Folkestone Triennial in June.

But he became the target of a campaign, with critics telling him he would burn in hell and Bibles pushed through his letter box with notes condemning the work.

He said: "There are some people with religious views who don't want you to share your own with them. It stops freedom of speech."

But when Mr Cotter was visited by two PCSOs saying a complaint had been made, he offered to take it down. A police spokesman said officers were just making Mr Cotter aware of the complaints, and he had not been asked to remove the work as no offence had been committed.

Folkestone vicar, Reverend Barry Johnson, of St Augustine, and St Mary and St Eanswyth, churches, said although he had not seen the painting, he was pleased it had made people think.

"It has served its purpose – it got people talking and questioning both sides of the debate," he said.

"This piece of art may not be to everyone's taste, but in this graphic portrayal the artist highlights the values with which today's society has to wrestle.

"Who do we worship in 21st century – God or man?"

In 1977, newspaper Gay News was fined £1,000 and the editor Denis Lemon given a nine-month suspended sentence after Mary Whitehouse, founder of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, sued over the publication of a love poem about a fictional Roman centurion having sex with Jesus' crucified body.

Mr Lemon and the publisher were found guilty of committing libel against Christianity. This was the last prosecution for blasphemy.



Picture: NICK AMES

ON THE CROSS:
Artist Johnny Cotter has won support from a vicar for starting a debate

Ticket details for the county show

THE Kent County Agricultural Society has announced the ticket prices for the 2011 Kent County Show. Visitors who book online or on the ticket hotline can save up to 52 per cent on the gate price.

Adults can also apply for complimentary child tickets for every adult ticket. An adult ticket bought in advance will be £17.50.

A pre-booked family ticket (two adults and four children) is £35, and an adult plus two children is £17.50. On the gate a family ticket would cost £66.

The society has launched a new website with details of the show's attractions. Executive manager Roger Moore said: "We had over 100,000 visitors to the website last year so we decided to add more features for 2011. Visitors can plan their day with a new itinerary tool."

Pre-booked tickets will be available in April from www.kentshowground.co.uk or the ticket hotline on 01622 633060.

JEFF Buggle has been appointed director of finance and performance management for East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.

He will be responsible for a turnover of more than £480m, and has 14 years' experience as an NHS finance director.

Trust chief executive Stuart Bain said: "Jeff has previously worked in a number of high-profile positions in large and complex organisations. I and the Trust board are looking forward to working with him."

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Speeding penalty

A MOTORIST who reached 138mph on the A20 has been banned from driving for six months and hit with a £1,000 fine.

John Morris, 48, of Battle, East Sussex, was clocked driving his BMW M5 at more than double the speed limit on the A20 at Gorse Hill in Farningham on October 28. He pleaded guilty at Maidstone Magistrates Court.

A speed camera was installed in 2003 because five people had been killed or seriously injured on that stretch of road in the three years prior to installation. In the last three years, there have been no serious or fatal crashes.

Hold-ups on A21

MOTORISTS are facing four months of delays as essential safety work is carried out on the A21 between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks.

The Highways Agency will start strengthening the embankments where the key road crosses Stocks Green and Nizels Lane in Hildenborough, on Monday, January 24.

One lane on each side of the dual carriageway will be closed and vehicles restricted to 50mph from 9am-3.30pm on weekdays, until the end of April.

Flytipper fined

A FLYTIPPER has been ordered to pay £315 for dumping toys, tyres and furniture in Luton.

Shaun Hooper, 41, of Leonard Road, Chatham, picked up the rubbish from a property on May 6 last year.

He had been employed to clear a garden in Otway Street, Chatham, and dispose of rubbish, but it was found ditched near garages in Reform Road, Luton.

Hooper admitted illegally disposing of commercial waste when he appeared at Medway Magistrates Court on Monday, January 17.

He was fined £150 and ordered to pay £150 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Petrol price rises fuel call for Government to take action

RURAL campaigners, business groups and politicians have spoken out over rocketing fuel prices which they say are hitting motorists, *writes Steve Knight*.

Last week KoS revealed how Shepway councillor Peter Carroll, who last year sold his Maidstone-based haulage firm Seymour Transport, had launched a campaign to lobby the Government into finding a solution to the problem.

Now other community leaders in Kent have voiced their disdain at the prices, which are just below £1.30 per litre for petrol and about £1.32 per litre for diesel.

Among them is Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson, who is calling on his Tory colleagues to support the proposal for a 'fair fuel price stabiliser' that would see fuel duty fall when oil prices rise.

He said: "Hauliers and motorists are really suffering from high fuel prices, and I fear there is even more misery ahead unless the Government takes action."

"I know the Treasury is reviewing whether a fuel duty stabiliser can be introduced, and I hope my colleagues and I can put pressure on ministers to make a positive decision."

The cost of filling up has risen over the past month, due in part to increases in global oil prices. But UK motorists have also been hit by a 1p fuel tax rise last October, another 0.76p hike on New Year's Day, and the general rise in VAT just three days later.

Another 1p hike is planned for April.



PAYING DEAR: Motorists have seen a series of fuel price rises in recent months

Andrew Aves, regional organiser for the Kent and Medway branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), said: "While in opposition the Conservatives pledged to put in place a fuel duty stabiliser, which was very much welcomed by the FSB."

"We are now severely disappointed the Government has not delivered on the promises made prior to the election."

Last October, the chief secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander, announced plans for a scheme that would provide a 5p per litre discount on fuel in remote areas.

However, it was reported this week that such a discount will not be in the Budget in March because the Government needs EU permission before it can charge different rates around the country.

Kent contains four rural areas suffering

from some of the higher incidences of "fuel poverty" in the country, including part of the Romney Marsh, eastern parts of the Isle of Sheppey, a small area north-east of Dover, and a small area north and north-west of Canterbury. This means the people living there are disadvantaged by the distances they have to travel and the costs of supplying energy to their homes.

"We welcome that the Government is in discussions with the EU on the matter of being able to reduce fuel duty in different parts of the country," said Keith Harrison, chief executive of Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

"We would like to see a fair tax system that includes in its calculation recognition of any additional costs of running a home or business in a rural community."

Meanwhile, Mr Carroll has denied reports his FairFuelUK venture will lead to disruptive action such as blockades.

Among the organisations backing the campaign are the Road Haulage Association and the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association. Their chief executives Geoff Dunning and Theo de Pencier wrote a letter to KoS this week in which they called for a united front against the fuel prices.

They said: "The time has come when the fuel price situation is now so serious that all users of fuel – including the general motorist – have common cause with us."

"There is another fuel duty increase planned for April but if we can get enough support, we can stop that happening."

Visit www.fairfueluk.com for details.

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Swearing and bullying rife at primary school, say inspectors

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

BORING lessons, bad behaviour and bullying have contributed to a "turbulent" primary school being ripped to shreds by Ofsted.

The education watchdog has now recommended that Downsview Community Primary School in Swanley, which has had four headteachers since last July, should be placed in special measures following a disastrous inspection.

A report published last week found name-calling, swearing and fighting were common in the playground, and children – particularly from ethnic minority groups – did not feel safe at the school, which has 142 pupils.

The report also found that governors were not meeting their statutory responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of children, the promotion of equal opportunities, or the provision of sex education.

In a letter to pupils, Ofsted inspector Emma Ing wrote: "We noted that you enjoy many aspects of school, but were concerned to hear quite a few of you do not always feel safe."

"We found that the school does not help you to take on responsibilities or develop broader skills such as those for leadership, and that you do not learn about different cultures."

"The school is not doing enough to put right the things that need improving. As a result, we have said that it needs 'special measures'."

Ofsted rates schools on a scale of one for

'outstanding' down to four for 'inadequate', and Downsview received the lowest score for 28 out of the 31 criteria.

This includes the three main criteria: overall effectiveness; the school's capacity for sustained improvement; and outcomes for individuals and groups of pupils.

The school's highest grade – a two for 'good' – was for outcomes for children in the early years foundation stage.

However, Mrs Ing said lessons for most age groups, like the curriculum as a whole, lack "excitement, challenge and relevance".

She added that there had been "turbulence" at the school since its previous headteacher left last July.

Mrs Ing said: "The executive headteacher, who was appointed in September, was replaced with an advisory head later that month, who has been unable to be in school."

"At the moment, the school is led on a part-time basis by a second advisory head, who was due to start working in the school full-time from January."

Downsview will now receive extra help as a result of being placed in special measures, with Ofsted inspectors due to make regular visits to check on its progress.

A Kent County Council spokesman said: "Everyone connected with the school is determined to move forward quickly, having already identified many of the areas of concern prior to the inspection. KCC is working with the school and an action plan has been put in place."

"The governors, headteacher and staff are completely committed to working to improve standards across the school, and to provide the education that the children deserve."



POLICE ACTION: Heavy-handed reaction to the riots has been blamed for inciting violence

Tunisia on knife edge, warns Tory MP Gale

A SENIOR backbench MP with political ties to Tunisia has warned the future of democracy in the crisis-hit nation is "on a knife edge".

The north African republic is on the brink of collapse following weeks of anti-government protests and clashes with police, and the subsequent exile of the country's president Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

An interim government was unveiled on Monday, in preparation for new parliamentary elections, but three ministers have already quit as rioting continues.

North Thanet Tory MP Roger Gale was vice-chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tunisia under the previous Labour regime, and was in discussions to reform the body when the protests began.

He said: "The danger is that in the efforts to establish democracy, some bad hats get control, and you've got another Iran on your hands."

"Providing they go down the democratic route I'm sure (Foreign Secretary) William Hague and other friends of Tunisia will give them all the help they need. But it's on a knife edge at the moment."

The rioting was triggered on December 17 when a man set fire to himself after officials stopped him selling vegetables on the streets of Sidi Bouzid without permission.

This set off protests about the lack of jobs,

which spread as the people vented their deep frustration with the ruling elite and suppression of political freedoms.

But the violent response of the authorities – with the police opening fire on demonstrators – appears to have made the situation worse, with more than 75 people killed so far.

Mr Gale said: "If you got on the wrong side of Ben Ali he could be a very unpleasant man, but if you were an ordinary person who didn't rock the boat you'd be unlikely to suffer."

Mr Gale said he had met with Tunisian ambassador Hatem Atallah about re-forming the all-party group days before the riots, when he had learned of the government's plans to create more jobs in order to restore the peace.

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First gay football team says fans are homophobic

THE founder of Kent's first-ever gay-friendly football club says homosexual amateur footballers avoid playing in mainstream teams due to fears of abuse.

Brian Silk, who launched Bexley Invicta Football Club last week, said it was easier for them to join gay-friendly teams where they could be open about their sexuality.

"At amateur levels of the game, gay people often avoid playing for mainstream clubs, because it's not easy being openly gay in a traditionally homophobic environment, and hiding your sexuality is difficult," he said.

"There are gay-friendly leagues, such as the Gay National League, where gay foot-

By **MARIJKE COX**

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ballers don't have to hide who they are."

Mr Silk, from Erith, who originally played for teams in north and west London, said it was not other players in mainstream teams that were the problem, but rival supporters.

He blamed this for the lack of openly-gay top-flight footballers, where there has been only one – Justin Fashanu – in its history.

The former Manchester City player killed himself in 1998 after being accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy, something he denied in a suicide note.

Mr Silk said: "I don't think the behaviour of other players is necessarily the issue.

"That's not to say that gay players do not face homophobia in the changing rooms or on the pitch, because that is endemic in society.

"Rather, it's the behaviour of rival supporters and insinuations in the media if you are even thought to be gay.

"This has been well-documented at the professional level. Graeme Le Saux has talked about how his disinterest in the laddish side of the game in the late 1980s led to an assumption that he must be gay.

"He was subjected to homophobic abuse and bullying from the stands that he said made him feel sick.

"Sol Campbell is another player who had to endure homophobic chants from the stands for many years."

Mr Silk said Bexley Invicta Football Club was for the old and young, men and women, and gay and straight people, and he hoped the team would join a league.

The first kick-about at Danson Park in Bexleyheath saw 10 players taking part and further five-a-side games are planned.

Bexley Invicta has its first fixture on March 20 against GFC Bournemouth.

Mr Silk said: "We have only just started, so we will probably play friendly matches first then perhaps enter tournaments before applying to join a league.

"The club welcomes players whatever their abilities or experience."

See www.bexleyinvictafc.com for details.





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CONSUMERS have drawn up a short list menu for the annual Taste of Kent Awards – they have cast more than 10,000 votes to select finalists for the 12 prestigious categories.

Expert judges and mystery shoppers/diners will now pick a winner from three finalists in each section ahead of a glittering awards ceremony to be held on Friday,

February 25, at Leeds Castle, near Maidstone.

The competition is staged by Produced in Kent, which champions the best food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs, and farmers' markets across the Garden of England.

For a full rundown of the awards and a listing of all 36 award nominees turn to the Business Week section.


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APPLICATIONS for university places in Kent have soared above the national average as would-be students try to avoid the rise in tuition fees, *writes Marijke Cox.*

Although a small increase in applications of 2.5 per cent compared with January 2010's deadline was seen nationally, all four of the county's universities have been inundated in the race to secure placements before fees potentially rocket in 2012.

Canterbury Christ Church University experienced a 15 per cent increase overall – 1,600 additional UCAS applications – compared with the same period last year, with its Medway campus seeing a massive 67 per cent rise in applicants.

The University for the Creative Arts, with campuses in Rochester, Maidstone and Canterbury, saw a 23 per cent rise, and the University of Greenwich 18.1 per cent.

Although the University of Kent was lower, with a 4.5 per cent increase, it was still above the national average.

Christ Church's director of student recruitment, John Slater, said the increase could be partly attributed to the impending rise in tuition fees in 2012 but admitted it was unclear whether the upward trend would continue next year.

"We have seen an overall increase of 15 per cent in this year's UCAS applications compared with the same period last year," he said. "This is significantly higher than the national trend. In the last four years Christ Church has seen a 50 per cent increase in applications."

Mr Slater said the increase demonstrat-

Tuition fees lead to campus surge

ed the value of locally-based higher education. "We're encouraged by the number of students who want to study at Christ Church," he said.

"It also emphasises the point that higher education remains critical to the national and local economy, at a time when many future students and families will be worried about increased tuition fees."

He admitted the surge would mean many applicants missing out on a place, but added: "We are the largest and best provider of education, training and skills to the public services in Kent and Medway, and this goes part way to explain our year-on-year success in attracting students."

A University of Kent official said although applications were up 4.5 per cent, it was difficult to say how much of the rise was due to possible fee increases next year.

Changes brought in by the Coalition Government at the end of last year will allow universities to increase fees to as much as £9,000 a year from 2012.

This, combined with a cap on university places, means thousands will miss out. Last year, a record number of applicants were left without a placement.

General secretary of the University and College Union, Sally Hunt, said the

increase in applications and high number of people missing out last year should prompt the Government to make extra places available.

"Our Government seems intent on ignoring the global trend of increasing access to university, which will see thousands of applicants denied the chance to fulfil their potential," she said.

"Rationing higher education and making it more expensive at a time when the rest of the world is investing in universities will seriously risk our standing on the world stage."



UKC: Templeman Library in Canterbury



CCCU: North Holmes Road campus

Student homes green belt plan

PLANS to build 800 student rooms and a 150-room hotel on greenbelt land went on display this weekend.

The University of Kent wants to build on Chaucer Fields, one of the last green gaps between the campus and Canterbury.

UKC has proposed a sustainable, energy-efficient design with solar panels. It will house 800 students in apartments, townhouses and flats, as well as office and study space, a laundry, shop and café.

The university also plans a 150-room conference centre and hotel which will provide accommodation for visitors to the city and university, plus a 205-space car park.

The £60 million development will create more than 400 temporary construction jobs and some permanent jobs in the hotel. The university has said it will also plant trees and create ponds at the site.

But a campaign group has already been set up to oppose the new buildings.

Tim Long, of www.savechaucerfields.com, said: "The scale of the proposal next to a suburban residential area will have a significant, permanent and detrimental impact."

"The proposal to build along the kilometre-long south-western flank of the green belt is unsuitable for the site. It is not sympathetic to the existing mixture of meadow and built-up



CHAUCER FIELDS: UKC's plan for city

areas. The university should consider an alternative before a planning application is made."

The plans went on display at St Stephen's Community Centre, Canterbury, on Saturday, from 10am-2pm.

Keith Mander of UKC said: "Consultation events will provide an opportunity for everyone with an interest to view our plans and ask questions. We are committed to consulting widely before we submit our planning application in March and we have already received 45 responses."

"These comments are being fed back into the Chaucer Fields design development process and we will continue to take account of further feedback."

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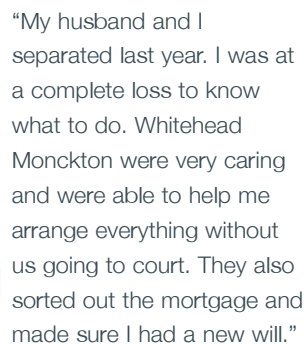
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First birth just weeks away at maternity unit

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

WITH just weeks until the first baby is born at the new maternity unit at Pembury, the finishing touches are being added to the first phase of the £234 million hospital.

Some 900 staff members at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust are being inducted and introduced to the new hi-tech equipment spread around the sprawling site – which is being touted as one of the most modern in Europe.

The first phase, which includes women's and children's services, outpatients, imaging and theatres and makes up nearly half of the hospital, is due to open in a week.

KoS was invited to return for a tour of the private finance initiative (PFI) 512-bed hospital to see the progress since our last visit in October.

Its unique selling point is that it will be the first acute NHS hospital in the country with

all single, en-suite rooms. The healthcare professionals conducting the tour enthused about the benefits to patient care, privacy and safety that the hospital and its detailing will offer, as well as the extent to which they have been consulted on all aspects of the building.

Gillian Duffey, the trust's associate director of nursing and head of midwifery, said: "From a staff perspective there are huge improvements. For women and children, there is no comparison to the facilities they will have here."

Impressive

The attention to detail is impressive, with window blinds hidden behind floor-to-ceiling glass panels so they are not traps for dust and germs; oxygen and suction pumps come out of wall panels to reduce the clutter of gas cylinders; and 'baby Resuscitaire' units are included in maternity rooms for emergencies but are hidden from view so they do not alarm new parents.

Mrs Duffey, who has 27 years' experience in nursing, said of the long-awaited new hospital: "When I first came to England as a student midwife there were plans for a new dis-

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CARE: Resuscitator machine at Pembury

trict general hospital here by 1990. I've waited 21 years for it to be a reality and the services in this building will be second to none."

Everything in the new hospital is starting to take shape, with a £200,000 robot system in the pharmacy to make dispensing medicines more efficient. Staff have given it the woman's name 'Doris' because it is so good at multi-tasking.

The MRI scanner is twice as powerful as most in the NHS, weighs six tonnes and cost £1.5m. Thanks to the hospital's league of friends' largest ever donation of £270,000, patients will be able to enjoy a flatscreen TV in every room.

The hospital is set to open fully in September; this year, when all other services will move over from the Kent & Sussex.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Society digs deep

KENT Archaeological Society is inviting applications for grants designed to encourage interest in the county's local history.

Grants from the Allen Grove Local History Fund are awarded annually and sums of up to £500 – or more for "exceptional projects" – are available.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.kentarchaeology.org.uk, or send an SAE to: Peter Stutchbury, Lympne Hall, Lympne, Hythe CT21 4LQ, by March 31.

When Kent historian Allen Grove died in 1990, he left £26,000 to the society to promote the enjoyment of local history.

THANET Citizens Advice Bureau says it helped a record number of people last year. The organisation saw 4,077 clients – a 25 per cent rise on 2009 and the largest percentage increase any CAB in Kent.

Debt and benefit problems accounted for 69 per cent of queries, with most of the advice offered to people in Cliftonville West, Margate Central, Dane Valley and Eastcliff wards. Manager Ian Driver said: "The past 12 months have been extremely busy and I expect 2011 to be even busier."

The service needs more volunteer advisers and administrators, and helpers with IT skills. Call Mr Driver on 01843 229696 if you can help.

Suspects charged

FIVE suspected dealers have been charged in connection with selling crack cocaine and heroin. The men are alleged to have dealt in Gillingham and all are charged with conspiracy to supply a class A drug.

They are: Robert David King, 20, of Pier Road, Gillingham; Darren Jarvis, 41, of Manor Street, Gillingham; and Connor Cokeley, 18, Darren John Fox, 20, and Beau Lohschelder, 25, all of Maidstone.

They were all remanded into custody and will appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

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Patience pays off for wildlife photographer

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN it comes to capturing wildlife on film, award-winning photographer Oliver Mannion says the Garden of England is the ideal place to unpack your camera.

The Canterbury resident was recently named Kent Wildlife Trust Photographer of the Year 2010 and says there are few better places in the UK to snap such a varied range of animals, habitat and scenery.

"Kent contains such a diverse wealth of wildlife," said Mr Mannion. "It's a photogra-



Oliver Mannion

pher's dream really. We have lots of beautiful nature reserves like Oare Marshes, near Faversham, as well as coastal towns that are home to a variety of sea life, like Whitstable.

"There are lots of different habitats and greenery, which is very useful when you're a photographer."

"Kent is definitely one of the better places to take pictures in. I've lived in Hertfordshire and London and there's virtually nothing there compared to Kent."

"I prefer going out into open countryside, getting that freedom and waiting for the opportunity to present itself, rather than taking pictures of animals in a wildlife park."

Mr Mannion, a teacher, was named photographer of the year for his picture of a swan in flight, which was taken at the Kent Wildlife Trust-run Oare Marshes.

The entries were judged by a panel of expert photographers chaired by Phil Hurst of the Natural History Museum's photographic unit.

Mr Mannion, 42, said: "The reserve contains approximately 170 acres of grazing marsh, separated by fresh and brackish



OLIVER SAYS: I waited patiently in order to take this shot at Oare Marshes. The result was based on hours of perfecting the technique of panning a fast moving bird in mid air whilst keeping its eye pin sharp.

water dykes and bordered by an earth seawall and some salt marsh.

"The mudflats and marshes offer an excellent habitat and therefore attract many migrating birds."

"I waited patiently in order to take this shot (of the swan). The result was based on hours of perfecting the photographic technique of panning a fast-moving bird in mid-air while at the same time keeping its eye pin sharp."

As the pictures on this page demonstrate, Mr Mannion has an eye for nature at its most beautiful and the talent to capture it on film.

However, he points out that photographers require a certain level of determination in order to get the best shots.

"Good pictures don't just materialise," he said. "You've got to be very patient and you have to study your subject and know when it's going to appear, and that might be early in the morning or late at night."

"But if you keep persevering then it will pay off. It's always trial and tribulation to get the perfect shot, but when you do it's well worth the effort."



OLIVER SAYS: The marsh frog is the largest frog native to Europe (they can reach 17cm long). Its eyes appeared alien-like though my telephoto lens. This photo was taken at Oare Marshes, near Faversham. I waited silently and patiently to get this shot, as the marsh frogs will dive into water at the slightest disturbance. The intermittent plonking sound made by the diving frogs could be slightly unnerving, if a person did not realise it was coming from the carefully concealed frogs. However, it was easy to locate their presence, due to their distinctive 'laughing call' (although I did not spot the frog until my third visit to the reserve).



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QUACKERS: This photograph of a mallard duck and its six ducklings was taken at Oare Marshes. I took this photograph in the late afternoon sunshine, which enabled me to capture the vivid blue colour of the lake. Several shots were taken, as they moved so fast.

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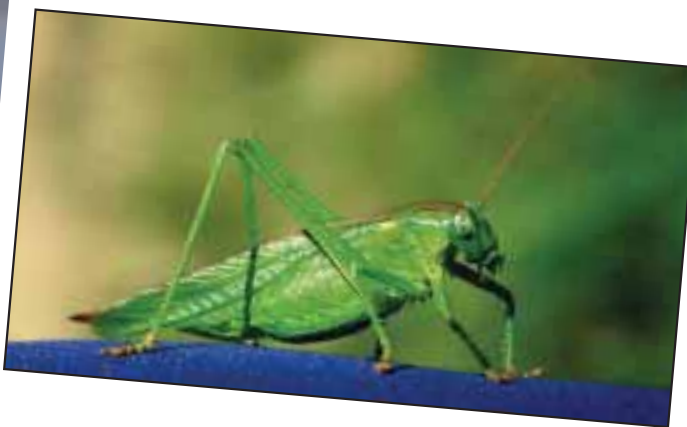




FRIENDLY: This great green bush-cricket jumped onto my knee while I was visiting the White Cliffs of Dover. It is the largest insect found in England and can jump as high as a metre. Observing it at close proximity allowed me to marvel at such a monster bug. I had to take shots virtually upside down, as it stayed on my leg for quite some time.



CHARGE: Not an obvious Kent resident, this black rhinoceros was taken at Howletts Wild Animal Park. I stayed at the enclosure for several hours. I really wanted to take a photo of a charging rhino, but it simply trotted towards me. To capture the effect of rapid movement I set my shutter speed at 1/15 second and moved the manual zoom focus ring of my camera from 200mm to 70mm. This created a slightly blurred shot, as the movement of the rhino was not 'frozen' by a high shutter speed. This technique is called a zoom burst and is easy to do but takes time to master.



Lessons take flight for the bird survey

CHILDREN across Kent are invited to take part in the 10th anniversary of the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch campaign.

Running from January 24 to February 4, the nationwide survey encourages youngsters and their teachers to discover and learn about the birds that share their environment.

Last year 55 schools in Kent took part, with almost 2,000 pupils helping to document the different species currently living in the county.

RSPB spokesman Sophie McCallum said: "For 10 years young people have joined in counting the birds in their school grounds.

"As well as contributing to our understanding of the changes in bird numbers, Big Schools' Birdwatch does a fantastic job of inspiring thousands of children about nature."

Last year, the blue tit was the most common visitor to playgrounds in Kent, with blackbirds coming second and black-headed gulls third.

Some schools make the activity the centrepiece of a whole week devoted to learning about wild birds, while others hold after-school wildlife clubs as part of work to improve their school grounds.

Ms McCallum added: "All you need to do to take part is watch and count the birds in your school grounds for one hour, then send one set of results back to the RSPB telling us what you saw.

"Whether you have seen several exotic species or just a few of the commonest birds, it doesn't matter. All sightings are useful to us."

Visit www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch or call 0300 456 8340 for more information.

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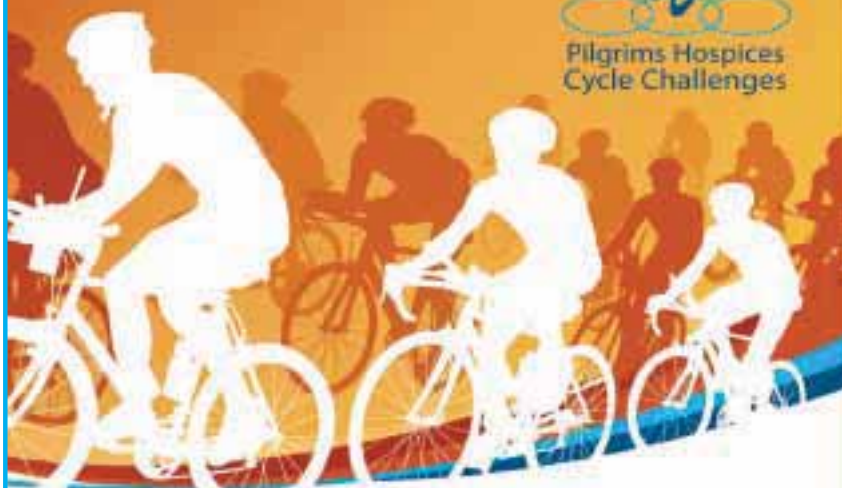
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A Life in Lights

Friday 8th September, 7pm

Ashford Town Football Club

An in memory event for those who have lost a loved one. Come and sponsor a candle to celebrate their life. All welcome to attend with poetry readings, choral singing, industrial music and social gathering afterwards.

The Great Escape

Friday 14th October

You have 24 hours to get as far as possible from a fictional prison of war camp without spending any money! Sponsored teams escape with prizes for furthest distance travelled and most sponsorship money raised.

For more details on any of these events or for help organising your own fundraising event in celebration of Pilgrims Hospice Ashford's 10th birthday, please contact Nigel Denton on 01223 504302 or nigel.denton@pilgrimshospices.org

www.pilgrimshospices.org

Turn on, tune in, watch this space

By **MATHEW BEECH**

matthew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEVISION viewers in east Kent will need to retune their Freeview equipment this week after an important change.

Alterations to the signal from the Dover transmitter will be made Wednesday, with the switch expected to start at midnight and be completed by 6am.

All Freeview, BT Vision and Top-Up TV boxes, as well as digital TVs, will have to be retuned. An estimated 109,000 viewers are served by the main Dover transmitter.

Anyone watching Freeview from the transmitter will need to retune in order to regain

access to channels such as Dave, ITV3 and Film4. Those watching only satellite or cable are not affected.

Freeview channels are moving frequency in order to protect them from interference when switchover happens in neighbouring areas of France and the UK.

After retuning, most viewers will not notice any change in their reception, while others should receive a more reliable service.

Some viewers on the fringes of current Freeview reception may experience occasional interference to certain channels, but public-service channels, such as those from the BBC, will not be affected.

Freeview coverage will be significantly boosted at switchover in 2012, at which point all homes served by the Dover transmitter will be able to receive the full line-up of Freeview channels.

Digital UK, the body in charge of next year's switchover, has launched an information campaign to make people aware of the need to retune on Wednesday, including local advertising and messages on Freeview viewers' screens.

Tony Gray, Digital UK assistant manager for the Meridian region, said: "This retune is required because of an important change to signals ahead of the digital switchover next year. We'll be working with the community to make sure everybody is ready for Wednesday and knows how to get any missing channels back."

Call Digital UK on 08456505050 or visit www.digitaluk.co.uk/retuning for more details.



VISION ON: Freeview will need retuning

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Family's tribute after tragic loss of mum-to-be

A PREGNANT teenage schoolgirl has died suddenly, police have confirmed.

Leah La Roche, 15, was taken to Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham on Thursday last week, after suffering suspected heart failure.

Her unborn baby, who Leah's family have said was due to be named Tia, also died. A post-mortem examination will be carried out.

Leah's sister, Verity, paid tribute online. At the gonetosoon website, she wrote: "A beautiful, loving and caring daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin, friend, fiancée to Tom and auntie to Millie.

"Such a cruel loss of Leah and her beautiful baby Tia, they never got to share life together with us, but we all know they are together now, watching over us, and Leah is being the wonderful mum we all knew she was going to be.

"Words can't describe the pain of losing them. We will miss her incredibly and never forget her and her beautiful ways."

Goodwins yacht crew airlifted

FIVE people were airlifted to safety before their yacht sank after running aground in the English Channel.

The 35ft boat became stuck on the Goodwin Sands at about 1.30pm last Sunday.

Both Ramsgate lifeboats – the all-weather Trent class Esme Anderson and the inshore Atlantic 75 Bob Turnbull – were launched to assist the stranded vessel.

A helicopter from RAF Wattisham airlifted the yacht's crew to safety as the RNLI waited for the rising tide to refloat the yacht.

However, the damage was so severe that the vessel quickly sank and plans to tow it to harbour were abandoned.

A PENSIONER has died after his car drove off the top of cliffs near Folkestone.

Kent Police and other emergency services were called to the Warren near Folkestone at around 2.30 pm on Tuesday, January 18, after a car went over the cliff at Capel-le-Ferne.

The body of a 65-year-old man from Deal was found at the bottom of the cliff, close to the car.

Police are not currently aware of any suspicious circumstances and no-one else was involved in the incident.

Her identity of the dead man has not yet been released by police.

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Drugs runner to pay up £28,800

A DRUG smuggler has been ordered to pay £28,800, or face being forced to sell his assets. Neil Hackett, aged 35, of Midhurst Hill, Bexleyheath, was imprisoned for 11 years in April, 2009, along with four others, after admitting his part in trafficking drugs from France to Hythe beach, using high-speed inflatable boats.

Maidstone Crown Court has now determined a confiscation order against Hackett, who has six months to come up with the cash.

During an investigation into the drugs running, police found high grade cocaine at a home in Larkfield with a street value of more than £70,000.

At Hackett's home and business premises, officers discovered a large amount of marine equipment, including inflatable boats.

Det Insp Mark Fairhurst said: "Neil Hackett benefited after setting out to import drugs from the Continent by using fast craft at night time across the Channel."

"The judge has decided that he has gained illegally from this activity and has made a confiscation order under the Proceeds of Crime Act. Much of the equipment used has also been forfeited and will be donated to local charitable and youth organisations."

Moped rider dies

A 68-YEAR-old man died after his moped crashed into a wall.

The Dover man was riding along Kennel Hill, Waldershare, on his red Gilera moped at 6.20am on Monday, January 17, when the accident happened. He was pronounced dead at the scene by ambulance staff.

Officers from the Serious Crash Investigation Unit say they do not yet know why the moped came off the road.

Recording the Indian struggle for a better life

PERSONAL accounts of the struggles faced by Indian migrants searching for a better life in Kent have been turned into a new book, *writes Marijke Cox*.

Coming to Gravesend tells of the first wave of migrants who moved from the Indian subcontinent to the district in the 1940s through to the 1960s.

Author Gurvinder Sandher, director of the Kent Equality Cohesion Council, said it was important for people to see how they helped shape the community and that people understood the sacrifices made to give younger generations a better life.

He said: "During the course of this project I have learned so much about life here in Gravesend and also on the subcontinent, between 1949 and 1969."

"The aim of this project was to share the stories of the early migrants with future generations, to understand the personal sacrifices they had to make."

Gravesend has the largest population from the Indian subcontinent, made up of countries including Pakistan and Bangladesh, and



SHARING STORIES: Author Gurvinder Sandher, and right, celebrating the opening of the Sikh temple in Gravesend

the second-largest Sikh community in the South East.

There was a wave of migration in the 1950s and 1960s, when people moved to find work using a voucher system to enter the UK. The migrants' position in the town was demonstrated in November last year, when thousands of people paraded through Gravesend to celebrate the opening of one of the largest Sikh temples outside of India.



The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, costing more than £13 million, was paid for by the Sikh community in north Kent.

The book is a product of the Coming to Gravesend project, funded with a £36,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and money from the Kent Equality Cohesion Council to educate people about migration.

Piara Singh Sandhu came to Gravesend in 1963, when he was 24.

He said: "My uncle was already living in Gravesend when I first came. He sent me a permit which enabled my entry to England."

"When I first came to England my intentions were to earn money so I could return all the money I borrowed from people."

Tarsem Singh Sandher also shared his experiences for the book.

"When I arrived in Gravesend I moved into a room that my father rented. There were six people in the house and the owner was Indian," he said. "My father worked for Gravesend Borough Council as a road sweeper and he held this job until he died."

The book is £15 from the Kent Equality Cohesion Council at 27a Darnley Road, Gravesend. Free copies are being provided to schools.



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Sex shows face tighter controls

By **ED HILL**

ed.hill@kosmedia.co.uk

LAP dancing and sex shows in Ashford's pubs face more stringent controls after a move to give residents more say.

Sex shops and cinemas come under licensing control from local authorities, but until recently, pole dancing, lap dancing and similar shows have been put on at pubs and clubs with a general music and dancing licence.

As part of new legislation a new category of venue has been created, known as a Sexual Entertainment Venue. These are roughly designated as any site where sexual shows and displays of nudity are put on for the financial benefit of the organiser.

For a venue to put on sex shows it will have to apply for an additional licence and pay a fee. As part of the process it must also advertise in a local newspaper that it has made an application to put on sexual entertainment and display a public notice for 21 days.

Any person can object to an application, but these mainly have to be because of issues such as the locality. For example, if they are close to a school, church, historical site, residential area or if it would create a proliferation of sex venues in one area.

Moral objections will be given less weight when the licensing committee considers an application to grant a licence.



MORE CONTROLS: A lap-dancing advert for a show in Lower High Street, Ashford

However, the licensing policy will not apply to venues that put on sexual entertainment less than 12 times a year.

The council consulted with Kent Feminista about the new legislation. The lobby group welcomed the framework, but raised concerns about such venues coercing women into performing and increasing crime.

They also suggested a 'nil per ward' restriction on the number of venues allowed but the council has decided it is better if each application is considered on its individual merits.

The legislation will be introduced in April.

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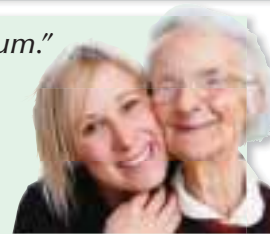
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ASSISTED LIVING

Gallery accolade for Naomi

Mother of two named as rising photography star for 2011

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

GRITTY photography by an up-and-coming artist, who turned an old council house into a pop-up exhibition, has been displayed at a top gallery.

Naomi Boyle's work was selected as part of a competition to find Kent's rising photography stars and is now hanging in Mascal's Gallery in Paddock Wood.

The 39-year-old was also named as one of the county's top new photography talents in the 2011 Ko-ax competition.

The single mum-of-two, from Gravesend, took the creative world by storm last year when she stripped out her former council house, painted the walls white and exhibited her work to the public.

Miss Boyle said it was in response to the lack of affordable gallery space, where she felt art was expensive and elitist.

"I emptied the house, took up the carpets, I stored stuff at friends' houses and even sold some furniture to make space – everyone thought I was mad," she said.

"My two teenage daughters stayed with my mum for the two days the exhibition was on."

"Lots of people came to see it and I received really good feedback. I'm now working with Kent County Council and Gravesham council to try and get affordable art space in Gravesend."



Photographer Naomi Boyle with her framed image at Munns framers in Gravesend

"There should be access for creative people who are struggling on low incomes, or for single parents unable to afford to show their work – they should have the same opportunities as others."

Miss Boyle, who works as a receptionist at Sure Start, described her home exhibition as voyeuristic.

The pictures, which featured her daughters, were taken in her house, representing the hidden moments behind closed doors.

Others, one of which was chosen as a winner in the Ko-ax competition, were taken at a derelict house.

"I wanted to show private moments," she said. "One of my daughters has ME and I wanted to capture the moments when she was really bad, or when she had just woken up."

"I wanted to do something unique and make a point."

After the exhibition, Miss Boyle decided to enter the Ko-ax competition held by Mascal's Gallery, which has displayed work by Turner



This picture by Naomi Boyle was selected by the Ko-ax judges to hang at Mascal's Gallery

prize winner Rachel Whiteread and celebrated sculptor Henry Moore.

Entrants had to submit five pieces of work, and they were judged on all five as a whole.

But one of Miss Boyle's pictures stood out so much it was selected separately and is being displayed at the gallery until February 19.

The judging panel included Simon Baker, curator of photography at the Tate Modern.

Miss Boyle said: "It's amazing, I'm really pleased and my friends and family are very proud."

"Art is so subjective. What one person likes another may not."

"When I first told my daughters about my gallery idea they thought I was mad. It was hard work – living with teenage girls is chaotic anyway."

"But they really enjoyed being part of it – the only thing I regret is taking the carpets up. We still have bare floors."

To see her winning entry go to Mascal's Gallery in Paddock Wood or for information go to www.mascalsgallery.org/index.htm.

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SKY SPORTS



SAFETY: It is hoped new guidelines will improve safety in Kent's tattoo parlours

Tattoo artists asked to put ink to new health and safety guide

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

TATTOOISTS and body piercers have been asked to abide by a new code of practice to limit the number of people harmed by untrained practitioners.

Environmental health officers in Dartford have drawn up the guidelines in an attempt to separate the professionals from the amateurs, and it is hoped that neighbouring councils will follow suit so those in the industry know what is expected of them.

Last November 15-year-old Sittingbourne schoolgirl Grace Etherington revealed how she was left paralysed by a virus just days after getting her ears pierced.

Tattoos have become increasingly popular in recent years after celebrities like David Beckham and Robbie Williams made them fashionable.

The risk of infection is much greater when tattoos or piercings are performed by non-regulated practitioners or those who purchase DIY kits over the internet.

"We know it's a problem and that there are untrained people out there, but we can't identify who they are without the help of the public," said Dartford council health and safety officer Fleur Blain.

"One of the problems for the industry is that some people choose to ignore certain hygiene standards due to the cost of setting up their business and getting it registered. They also know that if they get found out then the fines are relatively low.

Infection

"But what we're saying is that if the best practitioners sign up to an agreed code of conduct then they can improve their own businesses and we can recommend them to the public because we will know they have the proper qualifications."

In October tattooists and body-piercers from across Kent attended a training seminar by Marcus Henderson, a leading member of the Tattoo and Piercing Industry Union.

Mrs Blain used the event to help raise awareness of the new code of practice, which includes guidance in hygiene, infection, skin-preparation and waste disposal.

She said: "Another reason for the code of practice is to encourage and guide practitioners into the best possible procedures and practices, and in some cases at least meet minimum standards so the public can be assured that if they use these premises then they have made a good choice."

"One of the problems with current legislation is that bylaws are adopted by each individual authority under the Local Government Act and can be altered by the authority, but the result is that we all have a different version.

"The code will help bridge that gap."
• People with complaints or concerns about practitioners in Dartford can contact Mrs Blain on 01322 343434.

TONBRIDGE and Malling, and Gravesham, borough councils may share a chief executive to save nearly £120,000.

If approved by the two town halls, David Hughes will be appointed to the joint post when Gravesham's chief executive, Glyn Thomson, retires in August. Mr Hughes has been chief executive of Tonbridge and Malling for eight years.

The joint role, the first shared council top job in Kent, would be for two years, after which Mr

Hughes is planning to retire, and the position would be reviewed.

The two councils will share Mr Hughes' time and salary equally. The combined salaries of the two chief executives, including allowances, total £226,000. The new job will have a salary of £118,000, £59,000 for each authority.

The savings will be set aside for the trial so if it didn't work, there would be funding for each council to appoint a new chief executive.

Political control of the two authorities remains separate and unaffected by the change.

Tonbridge and Malling council leader, Cllr Mark Worrall, said: "We know that good shared management can and does produce improved services and genuine savings."

Gravesham leader, Cllr Mike Snelling, said: "It makes sense and we are confident this will work."

The final decision will be made by the two councils at meetings next month.

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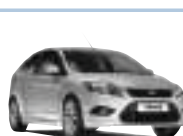
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Dental team leading way in NHS reforms

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DENTAL bosses say a new £11 million contract to provide services to patients in London will strengthen their position, ahead of the planned NHS overhaul.

The community dental team at Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS Trust – which provides services to hard-to-reach groups including those with long-term health problems – has now won a first-of-its-kind contract to extend the programme into the east London borough of Newham.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister David Cameron said public service reforms could not be put off, urging critics of the plan to scrap primary care trusts in favour of more power for local doctors to “grow up”.

And rather than rest on their laurels ahead of the trust's impending demise, the dental team at Eastern and Coastal Kent is keen to strengthen its position in preparation for the future.

“With the uncertainty surrounding the NHS, being commissioned by two separate PCTs gives us a bit of stability,” said the community dental service's clinical director Dr Mark



OPEN WIDE: Dental team is getting ready for impending NHS reforms

Johnstone. “In addition, the NHS is saving money by not having a whole new set of management for Newham.

“This process represents a significant shift in the way specialist community dentistry is commissioned, and a real drive to ensure the best possible care for the patient.

“As the NHS has to be more prudent in the use of its budget, and patients' expectations of the care they receive continue to rise, we have

to seek out ways of providing better care and working smarter, to be the best at what we do.”

Key priorities for NHS Newham include providing patients with better access to specialist dentistry through longer opening hours, and a stronger focus on children under five and those with special needs.

The new team managed from Kent will also accommodate patients who cannot be treated by high street dentists, including those with behaviour issues, chronic dental needs and learning disabilities.

Mr Johnstone said the new contract would have no effect on the level of service in eastern Kent, and that everything would be paid for by NHS Newham.

He added: “We have a good model of care in east Kent and we're building up a good reputation. If all goes well, then hopefully we'll be able to get even more contracts.

“Obviously there's a limit to where we can extend to though. I can't see us managing a dental service in Newcastle, for example.”

The community dental service also recently signed a new contract to provide care to inmates at Holloway prison in Islington, north London.

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Have your say...

University of Kent

The University of Kent is bringing forward development proposals for new on-campus student accommodation alongside a new hotel and conference centre. These facilities will enhance the University's accommodation and complement the nearby Canterbury Innovation Centre.

Please come along to our public exhibition to look at the plans, discuss the proposals with a member of the team and give your comments.

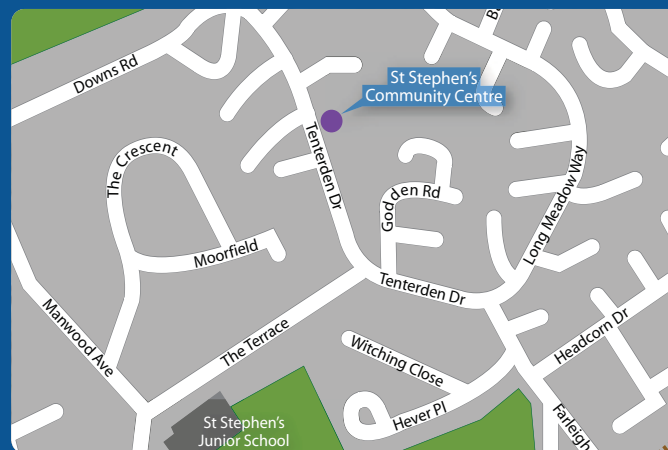
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We hope to see you there. If you are unable to attend for any reason and would like further information, please contact:

Jessica Stewart | 020 7357 6606 | jessica.stewart@localdialogue.com



The University of Kent makes a major economic, social and cultural contribution to the area and is one of the region's largest employers. It employs over 2,000 academic and non-academic staff and has 16,000 students in Canterbury.

In 2010/2011, the University expects to contribute at least £200

million to the economy in the Canterbury district.

The project represents a £60 million direct investment by the University during construction of the project that will, in turn, deliver significant local employment opportunities, as well as increased expenditure in the local economy.

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Revolt into style and out of a rut

I DON'T often wear make-up. And at work I dress for comfort rather than to project an image.

But stylist Olwen Shaw and life coach Sue Butler say your wardrobe can help you get ahead. Mrs Shaw said: "There have been studies that show women who wear make-up get more promotions more quickly."

"How you dress is how you are perceived, and if you dress in a sloppy way and you are not seen to take care of yourself, people think that is translated into your attitude to work."

Next month, the pair are running a workshop near Canterbury to help women dress and act to get what they want and they offered me a sneak preview.

Mrs Butler said: "This is for people who are feeling a bit stuck; who want to get back in the driving seat and get on top of their wardrobe, making your style reflect what you want your life to be like."

I arrived without make-up and wearing practical clothes.

First, Mrs Shaw showed me which colours suited me.

She said: "If a colour is complementary it lights up your face and makes you look fit. If a colour isn't complementary to you, it makes you look tired and older."



HANDS-ON: Stylist Olwen Shaw gets to grips with Jenny

A life coach and stylist are offering to help those women in need of a change to get the best out of their wardrobes and their lives. Reporter JENNY ARMSTRONG went along to find out more



Pictures: LAURIE PHILIP/SHUT



NEW LOOK: Jenny Armstrong, before and after sessions with a stylist and life coach

Next came the dreaded make-up, but the stylist of six years quickly transformed me from a sleep-deprived youngster into a perky-looking professional.

While she inspects my wardrobe and shoes, I have a session with life coach Sue Butler. Mrs Butler worked in human resources and career management in the



WISE WORDS: With life coach Sue Butler

City and at the BBC before becoming a freelance career coach for the likes of Motorola, the civil service and Zurich.

I was daunted by the idea, but it turned out to be a lot like having a helpful chat with a wise, unbiased, friend.

Most of Mrs Butler's clients are people who have had a change, or want to make a change, in their lives.

She said: "Olwen looks at people's personal style and I look at where people are in their life and where they are going next."

"They often go off and decide to do something completely different and the question arises: have they got the style and wardrobe to go with it?"

• **The style and life coaching day is on Saturday, February 12. For more details contact Sue Butler on 01227 767629, or email sb@suebutlercoaching.co.uk**



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The sands of time



LIVING HISTORY: East Wear Bay, where finds have included a Neolithic arrowhead (inset) HUNDREDS of artefacts have been unearthed during an excavation at the site of a Roman villa, *writes Marijke Cox.*

Archaeologists and volunteers are sorting through more than 300 bags of finds dug up at East Wear Bay in Folkestone.

A Neolithic arrowhead, a decorated spindle whorl and other forms of pottery have already been identified. Andrew Richardson of Canterbury Archaeological Trust said sorting the artefacts was an important part of the project.

"From the finds we will be able to provide dates of various settlements on the site, obtain indications of the status of the occupants and find out something about the trade between Britain and Europe," he said.

The three-year project, called A Town Unearthed, was organised by Canterbury Christ Church University, Folkestone People's History Centre, and Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Although the dig has been stopped until June, a team of volunteers and experts will work throughout winter and spring on sorting through the hundreds of finds and hosting public tours of the site.

Sorting takes place at the University Centre Folkestone, every Monday from 6.30-9.30pm.

Finds co-ordinator Catherine Holtham-Oakley said: "We already have an enthusiastic team of volunteers but always welcome

others. Serious work is done, but it is also a fun evening and a great chance to get hands-on with the finds."

People involved in the project are also offering to go to schools, clubs or societies to explain the work that is being carried out.

Dr Lesley Hardy, from Christ Church, said: "We want this to be a project for the whole community so it is important that we reach as many people as possible."

The public are invited to take part in shore walks in East Wear Bay this Sunday, and on Sunday, February 6, from 9am until noon to look for remains of objects from the Roman villa.

Anyone wishing to take part can call Hannah Lewis on 01303 850614 and meet at the villa site on East Cliff. Details of this and other activities can be found on A Town Unearthed Facebook page.

To take part as a volunteer or to arrange a talk, contact Ms Lewis on the same number.

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, with contributions from Folkestone Town Council, Kent Archaeological Society and Shepway District Council.

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Number crunch

POLICE say their automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) team removed more than 320 vehicles from Kent's roads in 2010.

Vehicles can be seized if they are uninsured, the driver is without a valid licence or MoT, or because intelligence suggests the vehicle is suspected to have been used in crime. ANPR manager Martin Lyddon said: "These figures should be pleasing for law-abiding motorists but worrying for those who use vehicles when committing crime."

ANPR works by reading number plates and officers receive an alert if the number is on databases and linked to criminal activity.

Bit of hall right

GRAVESEND'S historic Old Town Hall has reopened after a £2.5 million facelift.

The 150-year-old building in the Heritage Quarter, has been restored to its former glory.

There is also a new café and restaurant on the ground floor, three function rooms and a business suite with offices.

A range of community events, plus arts and heritage projects are being planned for the building.

Gravesend council leader Cllr Mike Snelling said: "This restoration has breathed new life into this important part of our High Street heritage. It is set to become a truly remarkable destination as well as a great place to work."

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Friday 4th February

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Saturday 12th February

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Thursday 17th February

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LETTERS

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Closing homes was inevitable

It is with great regret that we have learned of the closure of the 11 care homes that Kent County Council owns and manages.

The proposal to close their homes was put up for consultation between June and November last year, and 22,000 people took part in the consultation – an overwhelming majority against the proposal.

It appears that the decision was already made, before the huge amount of money was wasted on the so-called 'consultation'.

Cllr Graham Gribbens, the county councillor cabinet member with special responsibility for the elderly, pledged that he would look at each proposed closure to see if there could be a case made to keep a home open. However, he could find no case to support any of them; which results in the conclusion that their minds were determined before they consulted.

The sell-off of properties will only net approximately £2 million.

People will be moved out to private homes, many of which do not have the facilities or correct training to properly care for the special needs of these frail people.

The respite care provided by the homes to be closed will deprive carers of the support they need. The KCC homes qualified under the Care Quality Commission – will the private providers be as well qualified?

Anne Belworthy, chair, Canterbury & District Pensioners' Forum and East Kent Pensioners' Forum

Airport study serves purpose

I urge everyone to read London Mayor Boris Johnson's Estuary airport feasibility study, and with it, other associated reports concerning future "development" potential in what I believe the EU refers to as the Greater South East.

If he and his chums have their way, Kent will become a massive toy for planners, developers and the construction industry.

The reports are simply a catalogue of self-justified building schemes. Just one example: the Isle of Harty is a severely depressed area, and is therefore in need of regeneration. That gives you some idea of what they have in store for us, and it's all there in black and white.

Bill Stevens, Faversham

Academy set for success

We are writing in support of the staff and students of the Marlowe Academy who have found themselves at the centre of a media storm about exam results.

Although it is regrettable that the Marlowe's results were not as good

OPINION: POTSHOTS MISS THE TARGET

Leader of Kent County Council **PAUL CARTER** believes sniping against local government is misguided and Kent's record is one of efficiency and boldness

IT APPEARS to be open season for shooting local government at present, both by the press and even by some of our friends in Westminster.

As Leader of England's largest county, I believe it's time to redress the balance and stand up for local councils and what they've achieved for local residents.

It is absolutely right that the Government has to put the nation's finances back on track. But, let's make no mistake, local government has the most challenging financial settlement of all the public services: 10-15 per cent next year and 7-10 per cent on top of this the following year.

To put this in context, the national press stated KCC's saving requirement as 1.8 per cent. In reality, it is 10 per cent, excluding our funding for schools. Savings targets next year of £95 million and a further £65m in 2012-13 are figures which would send many private sector directors running to stave off bankruptcy.

But these savings will be made on top of KCC's excellent track record of service efficiency which has delivered £30m-40m savings for each of the last four years.

In delivering our KCC budget, I believe we have been innovative, creative and ruthlessly focused in presenting a programme which makes massive efficiencies, fundamentally retains all KCC services, and improves service quality. Innovation and creativity have been the name of the game.

There will be a council tax freeze at zero per cent next year for all Kent residents. An intelligent £72m three-year capital programme will continue our investment in Kent's vital infrastructure, boosting economic growth through our '21st Century Kent – Unlocking Kent's Potential' regeneration programme. And a leaner and more focused organisation will deliver top-tier management savings of £750,000 from April and £20m staff savings over the next three years.

We recognise the days of large government capital allocations to major new projects are now well

behind us – the cupboard is bare – and that means we must be innovative in finding new ways of raising finance for public projects that support Kent's priorities. Our 'Growth Without Gridlock' transport delivery plan provides an excellent example of how this could be achieved. Critical transport schemes such as a third Thames crossing, a new station at Manston to bring high-speed rail to east Kent, and the urgently needed dualling of the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury could all be funded by releasing new and innovative income streams. We believe £500m a year could be raised alone by charging foreign lorries the same costs that UK hauliers have to bear.

Nationally, the case for local government in delivering savings and driving up service quality is compelling. Even government efficiency adviser Sir Peter Gershon recognises local government as the most efficient part of the public sector.

From my 20 years in local government, I know the improvements councils have made to be highly impressive. Streets are cleaner, older people have greater choice in social care, as do parents and young people in education. And children are safer, despite the conclusions reached publicly by many.

As David Cameron rightly says: "We are all in this together" and we support this. Ministers should now trust local government to deliver the massive financial challenge that it has been set, building on our past success to achieve it. We welcome the greater freedoms coming our way and know there is a lot less to spend.

Instead, ministers' attention should turn back to Whitehall and the remains of quangoland, much of which can still frustrate change and innovation. The Localism Bill this week was a bold and brave move to hand power back to local communities, but the legislation must now be delivered, both in word and spirit. If localism and the Big Society are truly to be achieved, Whitehall must also toe the line.

It's our role in local government to accept the financial challenges that are placed upon us for the good of the country. Kent's proposed budget shows how councils can rise to this challenge.



caused by lack of investment in machinery and the round cancellations come from the oldest equipment, much of which is worn out. The linear ones are more modern, but none of the four sorting offices in Kent has them, because they have been considered for closure for some time to allow for a huge sorting office in Strood to replace them all.

Such old machinery often breaks down, which gives sorters the option of delaying post while repairs are undertaken or sending it on its way uncanceled, to let people have their post a day sooner and relying on the postmen to scribble through the stamps.

Letters are sometimes cancelled, or postmarked, differently if the sorting office normally responsible cannot cope with its workload on a particular day and post is sent to other sorting offices, which have the capacity at the time.

In Kent, extra work usually goes to Dartford, and I have sorted post from as far away as Norwich.

Sorting offices need updating

Mr Baldwin's analysis of the letters he had over Christmas was interesting, and illustrates present trends in private communications and the attitude of the political establishment towards the Royal Mail.

Having worked in Dartford sorting office, I can confirm many of his findings. The poor cancellation of stamps is

as they should be, we know that academy principal Ian Johnson and his staff are working hard to improve standards at the school.

They are in the process of implementing a major programme of action to deal with issues identified by school inspectors Ofsted last year.

Unfortunately, the exam league tables do not reflect these changes, and fail to show the improvements made at the school in the past few months. This is because the league tables are backward-looking and based on exams taken in June, 2010. A lot of changes have taken place at the academy since then.

Having said that, there is no room for complacency. Our children need the best education available and, in our capacity as Labour councillors and campaigners with constituents who send their children to the school, we will work closely with Ian Johnson, his staff and students to ensure the Marlowe becomes a centre of excellence.

All the ingredients for success are in place. According to Ofsted, the school has developed a "welcoming and cohesive community" where



Rough ride on the road to recovery

IT'S no fun being a driver these days – especially if you live in Kent.

If we don't have HGVs thundering along our roads at all hours of the day, then we've got them stacked up on our motorway, snarling everything up.

And if you're not being held up, then you're undoubtedly navigating your way around one of the potholes caused by the snow and ice – and made worse by the thousands of lorries.

Yet it gets worse, this time at the petrol pumps. Although everyone is affected by rising fuel prices, the South East, according to the AA, is one of the more expensive areas in which to fill up your tank.

So what little joy there is left in motoring we are now forced to pay through the nose for. And for those in rural areas who have to travel longer distances, the situation is even more serious.

For small businesses, struggling under the pressure of rising fuel prices as well as the recent rise in VAT to 20 per cent, the future is starting to look bleak.

In opposition, the Conservatives pledged to bring in a fair fuel price stabiliser to see fuel duty fall when the price of oil rose.

Now in power, they need to fulfil that promise so the Government doesn't keep hitting businesses and hauliers hard when they are trying to recover from recession.

English rose graced us with her talent

THE showbiz world was mourning the loss of actress Susannah York this week, after she succumbed to cancer at the age of 72.

The quintessential English rose and Sixties icon was much-loved in the industry, including by the Kent film-makers with whom she shot her last movie.

Kent can be proud that her last memory of working in film was in our beautiful county.

The decline of the Royal Mail is because recent governments are under pressure from the real government in Brussels to sell off the Royal Mail, and understandably want the winning bidder – Deutsche Post – to pick up the bill for new machinery. Furthermore, the recent closure of many post offices had to be undertaken to fit the cost of the network within the limits set by the EU, despite the mealy-mouthed protests of dishonest local politicians.

Neither does the Government really want people sending letters as they are much harder for them to read than emails and texts, which 834 government bodies routinely read already.

The post will not improve until people start asking Lib-Lab-Con candidates why post offices close, and the figures for the volume of mail have been falsified downwards, and start voting for other parties with views closer to those of the public.

Quentin Williamson, Dartford



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BAILEY

Angel-Mai born on 26th December 2010, weighing 5lbs 5ozs. Daughter to Andilee and Jodie in Dover.

BARTLETT

Lydia May Bartlett born on the 2nd January 2011, weighing 9lb 10z. Daughter to Daniel and Fay.

BIGGIN

Tasha and Aaron of Burmarsh, celebrate the birth of their daughter Lily Jane, born on 31st December 2010, weighing 9lb 8oz.

DOWNING

Phil and Megan of Edenbridge are delighted to announce the birth of their son George Philip Downing, born 2nd January 2011, weighing 8lb 6oz.

KIRKLAND

Alistair and Martina celebrate the birth of their son Samuel Alistair

Kirkland on 24th October 2010. A beautiful son for us and a brother for Oliver.

LAWTON

Andrew and Laura Lawton of Paddock Wood are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Phoebe Annabella, born 27th December 2010, weighing 8lb 10z.

MARSHALL

Dan and Zoe of Canterbury are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Daisy May Genevieve Marshall, on 18th December 2010. A new sister for Oliver.

PORTER

Amanda and Nigel Porter are delighted to announce the birth of Lucy Jessica Mary on 07/12/2010. A sister for Isabelle and Oliver.

SAXTON

Alfie Lewis Saxton born on 22nd December 2010, weighing 6lb 9oz. Son to

Paul and Hannah. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

WORTHINGTON

Felix Robert Shaw born on 24th December 2010. Son to Robert and Camilla in Detling.

DEATHS

BURROUGH

Michael James Burrough. Shepherd to lambs and humans. Born 30th January 1959. Died at home 7th January 2011. A lovely man whose smiles brightened the days. We shall miss him. Funeral service takes place at Barham Crematorium on Tuesday 25th January at 10:40am. Flowers welcome or donations may be made to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury, and sent to CW Lyons and Son Ltd, 51-53 Oxford Street, Whitstable CT51DB. Telephone 01227 272375.

BUSHELL

Yaya Bushell fell to sleep 13/01/2011. Sadly missed by family and friends. There is now an angel in Heaven known as Yaya.

HADLOW

Elsie Margaret Hadlow, nee Mustoo, of Bluebell Hill, passed away peacefully on 4th January 2011. Known to the electrical fraternity of Chatham Dockyard.

MEDGETT

Cyril Frederick Medgett passed away on 11th January 2011 in Maidstone Hospital. For funeral arrangements please contact Viner and Son, West Malling, on 01732 842485.

PAYTON

Marjorie Ann Payton of Canterbury passed away peacefully on 9th January 2011. A dearly loved mum, grandmother and sister who will be deeply missed.

pollution in the UK. Air pollution, mainly from traffic, kills about 24,000 people in the UK each year.

Traffic congestion in Kent and Medway is already atrocious during rush hours and in some places all day. The cost of motoring dropped by about 14 per cent 1997-2009, whilst rail fares rose 13 per cent in the same period.

Cutting traffic congestion in Kent and Medway must mean getting more long-distance freight off our roads. The best way to do this is to ensure fuel is expensive and forces hauliers to use rail, shipping and canal options.

The Coalition Government has still to introduce a Brit Disc to tax foreign hauliers whose lorries create gridlock around Dover.

Peter Carroll is throwing away any credibility of the Liberal Democrats as a party concerned about the environment. He should realise that UK North Sea Oil supplies peaked back in 1999, and that we are importing more oil each year. Rather than doing this, we need to cut oil use, including introducing better non-road freight options for long distances and bringing more electric-powered vehicles into use.

Stuart Jeffery, Chair of Kent Green Party

Who will give us Euro referendum?

Is there nothing David Cameron is going to try to keep in power? Now it appears he is rigging by-elections, as well as breaking every promise he has made.

Surely he must know that he is destroying the Conservative party with his love affair with Nick Clegg. I voted Conservative for a Conservative government, not the hotch potch that is in now.

On top of all that, we have France and Germany starting to put the pressure on Cameron because they know he is likely to give in to their demands, being totally out of his depth in Europe.

This is not David Cameron's country or any one person's and the majority of the indigenous population should be consulted about Europe, so give us that referendum, Mr Cameron, before you give any more of our country away.

Ed Miliband is saying "Listen to the people" so get in before Cameron. The people want a referendum, Ed, so make the promise.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Help raise money for lifeboat crews

This month, the RNLI will hold its biggest day of fundraising, RNLI SOS Day on January 28, and I would like to invite readers to join me in supporting this tremendous event.

Last year, during our travels at sea, my wife and I had the privilege of meeting the RNLI volunteer crew members

at Porthdinllaen and were fortunate enough to go afloat with them during their weekly training exercise. We also had the good fortune to meet the RNLI volunteers at Fishguard, stopped by the RNLI station at Loch Ness and kept a promise to assist our friends at Penlee lifeboat by presenting their annual crew awards. These experiences left me in awe of the RNLI volunteers, who are ready to stop what they're doing when their pagers go off and risk their lives to help others in danger at sea.

This winter, RNLI volunteer lifeboat crew members will go out in all types of treacherous weather conditions, including freezing fog or gale force winds, and many of these lifeboat launches are likely take place at night. And if people are in danger from flooding, the RNLI Flood Rescue Team volunteers are ready to rescue them. It is truly humbling and reassuring to know that these courageous men and women are there, no matter what, to help save lives.

It is also inspiring to see the ongoing support from the public for the RNLI, a charity that relies on donations. RNLI SOS Day offers a chance for everyone to show their support for this lifesaving service. So why not get involved and help raise funds on January 28. For fundraising ideas, visit www.rnli.org.uk/sos.

Timothy Spall, actor

The young jobless need our support

The end of 2010 brought with it worrying reports that the number of unemployed 16- to 24-year-olds had increased by 28,000 in three short months – bringing the total to 943,000.

This figure shines a glaring torch into the faces of hundreds of thousands of wasted young lives, many of whom are facing 2011 with little or no hope for the future as the country faces new cuts and further job losses.

Our hard-hitting new report, The Prince's Trust Macquarie Youth Index, shows that almost half of unemployed young people claim that joblessness has caused mental health problems such as self-harm, panic attacks, suicidal thoughts and insomnia.

Our findings show that unemployment can go hand in hand with significant emotional stress. We know that the longer young people are jobless, the greater the risk to their mental health.

Failing to step in and help these young people when they need us more than ever will only store up big problems for the future. More than three-quarters of the 3,600 young people supported by The Prince's Trust in London and the South East last year moved into work, education or training.

The efforts of charitable organisations like The Prince's Trust will play a key role in offering hope to a generation of young people who think the new year has nothing to offer.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness, regional director, Prince's Trust

Join our protest over fuel prices

There can now be very few people in the UK still unaware of the record price being charged for fuel at the pumps, and it won't be long before we all feel the effects.

But one group being particularly hard hit right now is UK hauliers. The road freight industry is the sixth largest employer in the UK and the industry on which the rest of the economy, particularly the manufacturing sector, is almost totally dependent.

Food distribution is another sector on which we all rely. We all expect to see fresh bread and milk on supermarket shelves, but how many of us actually stop to think how it got there? Who would ever have envisaged the day when a loaf of fresh bread became a luxury item? If prices continue to rise it could soon become a reality. It's time something was done. To that end, the two organisations that look after the interests of hauliers have decided enough is enough and are putting up a united front and are both firmly behind the campaign FairFuelUK.

Between them, they represent thousands of UK hauliers involved in the movement of goods by road. They really are the 'lifeblood'

of the UK economy. But the time has come when the fuel price situation is so serious that all fuel users, especially the general motorist, have common cause with us.

To make a real difference we need all fuel users to join our campaign. There is another fuel duty increase planned for April, but if we can get enough support, we can stop that.

Rest assured, we will not take part in or support any kind of disruptive action, as that would simply demean our industry, our country and hurt the general public.

We are calling on the Government to mirror this responsible attitude and approach and do something before it's too late. This can be achieved, but only with your support. Please help us to help you by signing the petition at www.FairFuelUK.com.

*T de Pencier, chief executive, Freight Transport Association, Tunbridge Wells;
G Dunning, chief executive, Road Haulage Association, Weybridge*

Cutting taxes will add to congestion

Reducing fuel prices as suggested by the so-called Fair Fuel campaign will add to traffic congestion and air



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On track for rail apprentice places

NETWORK Rail has extended its apprenticeship scheme for another year with places available at its Ashford and Orpington depots.

Interest for the nationwide programme is at an all-time high, as almost 8,000 young people have pre-registered for 200 positions, including eight in Kent.

The firm is the not-for-dividend owner and operator of Britain's railway infrastructure, which includes tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings and stations.

Acting chief executive Peter Henderson said: "The huge numbers we're attracting each year shows young people recognise an apprenticeship can offer a path to a challenging and rewarding career."

"For us it has proven great value in investing in our people."

"With such competition for places it is vital that if business is to lead this country to economic recovery, the right support is needed."

"A more flexible approach offering equal support for all apprentices, whatever their age, would help businesses large and small create the apprenticeships and the skilled workforce Britain needs to thrive."

Mr Henderson revealed that in 2007 the majority of the firm's apprentices were aged 16 and 17, while now there are more 19-to-21-year-olds on the programme.

Apprentices aged over 22 have also increased five-fold since that time, making up 22 per cent of the total. The oldest apprentice is 35.

Meanwhile, Network Rail is also calling for a national debate on the funding for older apprentices.

The firm says equal funding support for over-19s as for those aged 16-18 would help businesses across Britain drive recovery and create as many apprenticeships as possible.

There is currently 50 per cent less support for apprentices aged 19 or over, making it more costly to run a scheme the older the person is who joins.



PROSPECTS: Since it opened 11 years ago, Bluewater has created more than 20,000 jobs, and now it has an apprenticeship scheme

Scheme prepares the experts of tomorrow

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

BLUEWATER shopping centre hopes its successful apprenticeship programme will convince other employers of the benefits to be gained from investing in youth.

Having created more than 22,000 jobs over the past 11 years, the business has stepped up its search for the retail experts of tomorrow by providing a select group of young people with the skills and experience vital to a career in the industry.

According to Bluewater's retail manager James Waugh, the programme for 16 to 24-year-olds involves both classroom and placement-based training on every aspect of running a successful retail business.

He added: "We recognise the importance of developing the next generation of retail experts, and of supporting the community by providing jobs and training."

"Offering apprentices the chance to learn new skills provides an employer with highly-motivated and enthusiastic individuals, therefore helping to boost overall productivity for business."

"Apprentices can also provide extra support through busy retail periods and projects, and are keen to take on new tasks to expand their knowledge. They offer a valuable insight into today's workforce."

"We hope the success of the scheme will encourage other businesses to introduce similar programmes across the country, and 10 years from now, the Bluewater Apprenticeship Scheme will continue to raise the educational and retail career aspirations of young people."

The training programme launched in 2009 with five apprentices, with the second intake being increased to seven last September.

Among those to have voiced their support for the scheme are Dartford MP Gareth Johnson, Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis, and the National Skills Academy for Retail.

Those fortunate enough to win an apprenticeship carry out much of their training at the on-site Learning Shop, which has been accessed by more than 10,000 people over the past 11 years.

Mr Waugh revealed how the opening of the Events Venue at Bluewater later this year will create 100 new full-time positions, while the range and frequency of events held will create additional part-time jobs.

He added: "Bluewater recognises the importance of developing the next generation of retail experts, and the importance of supporting the community by providing jobs and training."

Visit the work experience/training section of www.bluewater.co.uk for more details.

WHAT is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Is it running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or perhaps the company is funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

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Young jobless offered help to get back on their feet

YOUTH charity the Prince's Trust has assured Kent's young jobless that help is at hand in finding training and employment.

According to a new report by the trust, 16- to 25-year-olds who are classed as Neet (not in employment, education or training) are more likely to suffer from panic attacks, self-harm and self-loathing.

South East regional director Rosemary Watt-Wyness said: "Unemployment presents a real and frightening mental health problem for young people – and the longer they are out of work, the greater the risk.

"The Prince's Trust can help vulnerable young people back on their feet and into work, building motivation and self-esteem."

Thirty-three-year old Nigel Tait, from Hadlow, near Tonbridge, was out of work for more than four years before getting help from the Prince's Trust's enterprise programme to set up his own business.

In 2009 he won the Federation of Small

Business Enterprise Award for his domestic appliance, electrical and plumbing repairs and sales firm, N Tait Services.

"When you're out of work your self-esteem really suffers," he said. "You feel like a failure, and it really affects your confidence.

"Not having anything to get up for in the morning made me feel increasingly depressed.

"I was also worried about money and whether I would ever be able to find a job.

"Starting my own business has given me a real purpose in life. Thanks to the Prince's Trust, I now feel confident and positive about the future."

Last year, the Prince's Trust supported more than 44,000 disadvantaged young people in building their skills, confidence and motivation. More than three in four moved into work, education or training.

Visit www.princes-trust.org.uk or call 0800 842842 for more information.

Let gigs inspire you to career in creative arts

A MUSIC management student has organised a series of gigs for the under 18s in a bid to inspire young people to pursue



EXCITED: Music student Lucy Cousins

careers in the creative arts.

Lucy Cousins, 22, who is in her final year at Canterbury Christ Church University, has set herself up as a freelance music consultant and says she wants to give something back to the community.

The first YARD show will be held at the university's Broadstairs campus on Friday, January 28.

Lucy said: "I'm so excited about bringing the new skills I've learned back home to Thanet.

"YARD is aimed at teenagers in the area who have a desire to perform and make a potential career out of the creative arts, or who just want to know what it's all about and try something new.

"I'm sure they will really enjoy it."

Tickets for the Broadstairs show are £4 and are available from the Westwood Cross branch of HMV.

Visit www.yardmusic.co.uk for more information.

Challenge days to shed new light on engineering

YOUNG engineers from six Kent schools took part in a challenge day organised by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Last week's event was one of 45 held across the UK to encourage more pupils to consider careers in the 'Stem' subjects of science, technology, engineering and maths.

It was hosted by Bullers Wood School in Bromley, and included teams from nearby Coopers Technology College, Beaverwood School for Girls, Darrick Wood School and Hayes School, as well as from Kemnal Technology College in Bexley.

IET head of education Gareth James said: "Engineering is often an invisible industry among young people. They have pre-conceived negative ideas about what engineers look like and the jobs they do.

"Through these challenge days we aim to encourage more young people to study Stem subjects and consider engineering as a possible career path.

"The young people attending the challenge days will experience hands-on, practical events to challenge their perceptions and make them realise engineering is an exciting, rewarding career path."

Apprenticeship Week 7-11 February 2011



Summary of events in Thanet:

Monday 7th February

- Launch of Training Solutions Facebook site
- College Apprenticeship Graduation event



Tuesday 8th February

- Thanet College recruits 'The Apprentice'

Wednesday 9th February

- Principal Graham Razez - live interview on Academy FM at 11.15am
- Drop-in session about Apprenticeships - College Library 12 midday until 5.00pm

Thursday 10th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm

Friday 11th February

- Training Solutions take over the Community Hub at Westwood Cross 10am-1pm
- Thanet College hosting the Coastal College Consortium for the 'Employer Engagement Task Group'

Saturday 12th February

- Apprenticeship Bus will be at Westwood Cross from 8.30am-6.00pm
- Launch of a range of new Thanet College Apprenticeship programmes



Events run by Training Solutions
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to work in a residential home in Faversham for the elderly.
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Sales Co-ordinator

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- Marketing
- Account Management
- Team Leading

Reporting to the Sales Director you will be responsible for the general co-ordination of the sales team using effective team leading skills to move the team forward and to enhance performance. You will take a hands on pro-active role in developing the Marketing approach for the company, this is aimed at new business generation.

You will need to be numerate and have good attention to detail with a methodical approach to your work together with excellent communication and organisational skills. Experience working in a manufacturing business with some technical knowledge would be of benefit but not essential as full process/product training will be provided. A good knowledge of 'MS Office' software is also required.

This is a key role within the business and will be of interest to someone with Enquiry Management and Marketing experience looking for a challenging and rewarding role.

Please send your CV to jolson@hvwooding.co.uk



Box Office Supervisor (£17,000 - £18,500)

Theatre Royal Margate is seeking an organised and motivated candidate with excellent sales and database skills and a passion for the arts. You will ensure the efficient running of the Box Office, working with the Theatre Royal Margate team to increase and diversify the footfall into the theatre and its activities. This is a full-time position, for a fixed term of eighteen months, reporting to the General Manager in a small and busy organisation.

For an application pack please call **01843 282956**, see our website
www.theatreroyalmargate.com or email: admin@theatreroyalmargate.com

Deadline for applications - Fri 4th Feb, 12pm
Interviews - w/b 7th Feb 2011

Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.

With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback.

Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman
Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road,
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or
e-mail ron@piperwindows.co.uk





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Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

Media Sales Executives Field Based x2

Full Time permanent Ashford and Weald
Full Time permanent West Kent

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives x2

Maternity Cover fixed term 12 months

Full Time permanent

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply. You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS

Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Media Sales Executives (Business to Business)

We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines.

We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers. We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

Telephone Sales Executives x2

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner.

Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Christine Davidson, Commercial Director

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS

Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Assistant Manager

**Required For Residential Care Home
in Folkestone**

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.

Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk
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Alzheimer's & Dementia

S U P P O R T S E R V I C E S

Registered Charity Number 1024385

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CARING FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA?

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity which supports people with dementia and their carers

We are looking for **CARERS** to support people in their own homes. You will need to have a genuine interest in people with dementia plus patience and empathy in abundance. Experience of caring for people or NVQ level 2 required. In return we will offer you specialist training, hours to suit you, and the opportunity to work for a friendly caring charity.

Rate of pay will be £8.00 per hour, plus 4 weeks annual leave.

For application forms and further information contact Judith West 01474 533990

or email judith.west@alz-dem.org

Closing date for completed applications 21st Feb, 2011.



Public Sector

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THANET COLLEGE
RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

A Lecturer in Functional Skills is required to teach English and Maths college wide and within discrete groups.

Salary Scale: £9,648 - £11,431
for 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year

Closing date: 26 January 2011

Interview date: 9 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.

Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

Trainer/Assessor in Health & Social Care

A Trainer/Assessor is required to work at the college's brand new Business Centre in Manston.

The successful applicant will be required to:

- Assess and track a caseload of learners for Employer Responsive provision in a variety of environments towards timely completion
- Carry out Internally Verification
- Prepare and deliver group training for customised and accredited programmes
- Contribute to resource development and implement new programmes as necessary under the direction of the Sector Lead
- Promote the Business Centre / Sector, recruiting new candidates primarily from existing employer contacts.

Salary Scale: £19,000 - £23,000 plus Achievement Incentives up to £3K, 37 hours, all year

Closing date: 31 January 2010

Interview date: 8 February 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Westlands Academies Trust



The Westlands School

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF

SITE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/CARETAKER

The successful applicant will work as a member of the Site Maintenance team, line-managed by the Site Manager. As well as general caretaking duties, the successful applicant will be expected to undertake site maintenance, and so a working knowledge and experience with carpentry, electrics, plumbing and decorating is desirable.

37 hours a week. Extra payments will be made to cover any out-of-hours lettings during evenings and weekends and for weekend/Bank Holiday standby duty, all of which are carried out on a mandatory, shared rota basis.

Applicants must be prepared to work a variety of hours as and when required.

Kent Pay Band 3 £14,099 - £15,984

Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.

Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date: Monday 31st January 2011

Westlands Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check..

Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher:
Mr J Whitcombe MA

Westlands Academies Trust
Company No 7344732



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The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR (Margate)

20 hours per week (shifts between 7.30am – 08.00pm)
Closing date for applications –4th February 2011

Qualifications

Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent) 2 years working with the public
Knowledge of Word, IT Skills, Booking Systems. Flexible approach to working

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Caroline McKean, Outpatient Administration Supervisor on 01843 234555 Ext: 62044

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check




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Jobs

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Census
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
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applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Data and Personalisation Controller

Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Fox Print Services
Rebecca.aldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Cook

Broadstairs
Salary £6.70 per hour
To apply/more information:
The Royal British Legion
mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Team Support Workers - Childcare

Thanet

Salary £13,874
To apply/more information:
Bradstow School
personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Childcare Support Assistants

Broadstairs
Salary £10,079
To apply/more information:
Bradstow School
personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HOUSEPARENT - CHILDCARE

Broadstairs
Salary £19,621- £22,221 per annum
To apply/more information:
Bradstow School
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Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Plant Supervisor

Ashford
Salary £neg depending on skills and experience
To apply/more information:
Interpersonnel
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk
Quoting Job Ref: PSA11

Sales Executive

Rochester
Salary £30K OTE
To apply/more information:
Inchoak Office Interiors
mhawksworth@inchoak.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Customer Service, Call Centre

Telephone Sales Executives

Ashford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT) KOS MEDIA
ynex.coton@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos4

Telephone Sales Executives x2

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT) KOS MEDIA
christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Domestic Trades

Aglian Home Improvements

Kent
Salary £40 OTE
To apply/more information:
Anglian Windows
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
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Education, Teacher, School

LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Broadstairs
Salary £9,648 - £11,431
LECTURER IN FUNCTIONAL SKILLS
A Lecturer in Functional Skills is required to teach English and Maths College wide and within discrete groups. Salary Scale: £9,648 - £11,431 for 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks per year. Closing date: 26 January 2011. For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052. Promoting Equality/Preventing Discrimination.
To apply/more information:
Thanet College
personnel@thanet.ac.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Communicator

The Folkestone School for Girls
Salary Kent Pay Scheme Band 6 (£18,471-£20,262)
To apply/more information:
Folkestone School For Girls
sdunster@folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KoS

Teaching Positions

Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: Gen

PE TEACHER

Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: PE

HOME ECONOMICS TEACHER

Medway
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Education Sense
office@education-sense.com
Quoting Job Ref: HECO

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Aglian Home Improvements

Kent
Salary £40 OTE
To apply/more information:
Anglian Windows
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Electrically Based Engineer

Sittingbourne
Salary £35,000
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Estate Agency, Property

Lettings Administrator

Sittingbourne
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To apply/more information:
Family Homes
sunil.papat@virgin.net
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Graduate, Trainees

Jobs

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To apply/more information:
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Lecturer in Beauty Therapy

Medway
Salary £25,181 - £28,963
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
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Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Refuse Loader

Rochester
Salary £5.93ph
This Vacancy is being advertised on behalf of The Best Connection who are operating as an employment business. Previous experience is not essential. Own transport required to due to location. This work involves manual handling up to 25kg. Duties include assisting crews on daily routes, collection and loading of residential and commercial waste bins and any other tasks as required. Please apply by either email or phone. Phone: 01622 664999 Email: maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency (The)
maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref:

Inkjet Machine operators

Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Fox Print Services
Rebecca.aldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Production Manager (Mailing)

Tunbridge wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Fox Print Services
Rebecca.aldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Data and Personalisation Controller

Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Fox Print Services
Rebecca.aldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Enclosing Machine operators

Tunbridge Wells
Salary £16,000-£30,000pa
To apply/more information:
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Leisure, Tourism, Travel

New Careers in Health and Wellness

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Salary £1000.00+ per mnth
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Arriba
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Trainee Sales Assistants

Sevenoaks
Salary Circa £15,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Johnsons Leisure Ltd
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Trainee Sales Assistants

Whitstable
Salary circa £15,000 per annum
To apply/more information:
Johnsons Leisure Ltd
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Assistants

Sevenoaks
Salary £25,000 per annum
To apply/more information:
Johnsons Leisure Ltd
sales@needextraspaces.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Box Office Supervisor

Margate
Salary £17,000 - £18,500 PA
To apply/more information:
Theatre Royal Margate
admin@theatreroyalmargate.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Management, Senior Positions

Jobs

All over Kent
Salary £7.41 to £15.37 p.h.
To apply/more information:
Census
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Nurse Manager

Folkestone
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Barham House
barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable

COMMERCIAL MANAGERAn experienced Commercial Manager is required to headup our team of estimators working as a specialistsubcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidatesmust be able to demonstrate expertise, flair andinnovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQO's andmanaging and assisting in Partnering Submissions forRSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job costfeedback.Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent,there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.Please apply in writing to Mr Ron TwymanPlanning Manager, 140 Newington Road,Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP ore-mail ron@piperwindows.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
piper@piperwindows.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Marketing, Advertising

Media Sales Executives Field Based x2

Ashford & the Weald West Kent
Salary Negotiable
Media Sales Executives Field Based x2Full Time permanent
Medway North KentFull Time permanent
West Kent KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazinesand digital sales. We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business



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To apply/more information: ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos3

Telephone Sales Executives x2

Ashford
Salary Negotiable
Telephone Sales Executive You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured salesperson with a structured and positive manner. You might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Christine Davidson, Commercial Director, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SS. Or by email: christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

To apply/more information: ARCHANT KOS MEDIA christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Motor Trade, Driver

Senior Painter
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: AB Crush Panelcraft applications@jobsforkent.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Not for profit, Charities

CARERS
Northfleet
Salary £8.00 per hour
To apply/more information: Alzheimers & Dementia Support adminadss@btconnect.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Massage Therapist
Canterbury
Salary 9-18 k per annum + bonuses
To apply/more information: Canterbury Health Practice monique@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001

Registered General Nurse
Broadstairs
Salary £12.23 per hour
To apply/more information: The Royal British Legion mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

RGN (Day and Night shifts)
Gillingham
Salary Negotiable
Prestigious Naval Care Home in Gillingham Requires: RGN's (Day and Night shifts)
Applicants should be able to provide a high standard of nursing care and work as part of a team. For more information and application form contact: PEMBROKE HOUSE 11 Oxford Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 4BS Tel: 01634 852431

To apply/more information: Royal Naval Benevolent Trust jotrumbeth@pembrokehouse-rmbt.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Other

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To apply/more information: Utility Warehouse albanbarnett@telecomplus.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Inkjet Machine operators
Tunbridge Wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.aldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Production Manager (Mailing)
Tunbridge wells
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services Rebecca.aldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Childcare Support Assistants
Broadstairs
Salary £10,079
To apply/more information: Bradstow School personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Public Sector, Social Services

Registered General Nurse
Broadstairs
Salary £12.23 per hour
To apply/more information: The Royal British Legion mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered Nurse
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Barham House barhamhouse@hotmail.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS
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WANT A NEW CAREER IN THE NEW YEAR! COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS REQUIRED FOR AN EXPANDING CARE AGENCY. FULL-TIME SHIFTS AVAILABLE IN TONBRIDGE. Self Employed basis only. Shift starts at 7am. £8.25 to £10.00 per hour. You need to be happy taking responsibility and working with older people on your own. Must have own car and phone. Uniform provided. Full Training programme available. Experience preferred but not

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To apply/more information: TerraBlu Ltd emma.food@terrablu.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

CARERS
Northfleet
Salary £8.00 per hour
To apply/more information: Alzheimers & Dementia Support adminadss@btconnect.com Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales Assistants
Maidstone
Salary £25,000 PA
To apply/more information: Johnsons Leisure Ltd sales@needextraspaces.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Trainee Sales Assistants
Maidstone
Salary circa £15,000 per annum
To apply/more information: Johnsons Leisure Ltd sales@needextraspaces.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Assistants
Whitstable
Salary £25,000 PA
To apply/more information: Johnsons Leisure Ltd sales@needextraspaces.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Assistants
Sevenoaks
Salary £25,000 per annum
To apply/more information: Johnsons Leisure Ltd sales@needextraspaces.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

COMMERCIAL MANAGER
Ramsgate
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information: Piper Windows piper@piperwindows.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Box Office Supervisor
Margate
Salary £17,000 - £18,500 PA
To apply/more information: Theatre Royal Margate admin@theatreroyal.margate.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Sales Executive
Rochester
Salary £30k OTE
To apply/more information: Inchoak Office Interiors mhawksworth@inchoak.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Experienced Timber Sales/Sales Person
Ashford
Salary Wage negotiable
To apply/more information: Orlestone Oak Ltd glenn@orlestoneoak.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: kos

Transport, Logistics, Aviation

Class 2 LGV Moffett Driver
Maidstone
Salary £9 - £10 Per Hour
We are currently looking for a Class 2 Moffett Driver, required for on-going temporary work. All applicants will need to have an up to date moffett certificate and hold a digi-tacho card. Hours of work will be Monday - Friday days working between 40 - 45 hours per week. For further details please call Alex on 01622 864999.
To apply/more information: Best Connection Agency (The) maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk Quoting Job Ref: AH0001

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
Notice of application for the variation of a premises licence
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the licensing authority of Maidstone Borough Council for the variation of a premises licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003

Details of the application are as follows;
Name of Applicant; Mytime Active
Postal address of premises; Cobtree Golf Course, Chatham Road, Sandling, Maidstone, ME14 3AZ
Brief description of proposed variation to premises licence; To extend Permitted Hours to 00.30hrs for Supply of Alcohol Mon-Sat & remove conditions section under 'Children' from embedded conditions. Entertainment Mon-Sat.

Any responsible authority or interested party wishing to make representations on this matter must submit those representations in writing to; The Licensing Team,

Maidstone Borough Council PO Box 1255 MAIDSTONE ME14 9LT by no later than 28 days from the date of this notice.

ANY REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THE APPLICANT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY

Please note that it is an offence knowingly or recklessly making a false statement in connection with an application and, on summary conviction for the offence, a person is liable to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000)

Signed; B Thompson Dated; 14/01/11

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **Knowlton Court, Knowlton, Canterbury**
Applicant: **Andrew Fox-Pitt**
Name of Premises: **Fordwich Town Hall, King Street, Fordwich**
Applicant: **Elizabeth Lewis**
The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **Court Stairs Manor, Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate**
Applicant: **Mrs Julie Elder**
The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **Orchard House, 164 Wateringbury Road, East Malling**
Applicant: **Colin Price**
The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Giles Adey
Head of Registration
1st Floor
Invicta House
Maidstone, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **The Paper Mill, Foxhole Lane/Hinksden Road, Hawkhurst**
Applicant: **Mr Charlie Andrew**
Name of Premises: **Groombridge Place Gardens, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells**
Applicant: **Mrs Jill Todd**
Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

COOK & CO (SOUTH EAST) LIMITED
1/A "Mr Clutch"
(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 05452695
Notice is hereby given that Mark Newman and Vincent John Green (IP Nos 008723 and 009418) both of CCW Recovery Solutions LLP, Jaeger House, 5 Clanciarde Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1PE were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company by the members and creditors on 7 January 2011. Further details contact Julie Windiate, Tel: 01892 700200, Email: info@ccwrecovery.com
Dated: 7 January 2011
Mark Newman and Vincent John Green, Joint Liquidators

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Irfan Erdogan of 68 New Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AE has applied to Gravesham Borough Council for the variation of late night refreshment (Premises Licence) Monday to Sunday 11am – 6am for the premises of Rainbow Pizza & Kebab situated at 68 New Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0AE.
A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing> or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU Tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to my application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of objection by 04/02/2011
The council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **Hotel Du Vin, Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells**
Applicant: **Mike Auld**
Name of Premises: **The Beacon, Tea Garden Lane, Tunbridge Wells**
Applicant: **John Cullen**
The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS
An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **The Swan, 35 Swan Street, West Malling**
Applicant: **Mr Peter Cornwell**
The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.
Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

SECTION 48 PLANNING ACT 2008
REGULATION 4 INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER AT KENTISH FLATS OFFSHORE WIND FARM, NEAR WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY, KENT
NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER ("DCO")
Notice is hereby given that Vattenfall Wind Power Limited (the "Applicant") of 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB proposes to apply to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (the "Commission") under section 37 of The Planning Act 2008 for the above-mentioned development consent order (the "Application").
The Application relates to the construction and operation of an extension to the existing 90 megawatt (MW) Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm, near Whitstable and Herne Bay in Kent (the "Project"). The proposed DCO will, amongst other things, authorise:
• Construction and operation of up to 17 additional turbines to the south and west of the existing Kentish Flats turbine array. The extension would provide up to 51megawatts (MW) of additional capacity and cover a maximum area of 8 km² in water depths of approximately 5 metres. The turbines would have an expected rated capacity of around 3MW with a maximum tip height of around 145 metres. The turbines would be connected by subsea inter-array cables at a depth of around 0.5 to 1m and the foundations are likely to be steel monopiles driven about 30-40 metres into the seabed.
• Associated development comprising the installation of one or more export cables from the wind farm to the shore in the vicinity of Hampton Pier from where it is likely to follow the existing onshore cable route to the Red House Farm electricity substation. This route would take the cable along Hampton Pier Avenue turning west along Whitstable Road for approximately 150m before joining Westbrook Lane. The cabling would run along Westbrook Lane under the railway line before reaching the old Thanet Way. It would then join Thornden Close before running along Thornden Wood Road for approximately 200m to the Red House Farm electricity substation. The route is approximately 2km in length.
• Licences to authorise the installation of the turbines and cables on the seabed.
• Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.
The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development. Accordingly, the Applicant will be making preliminary environmental information available. A copy of the Preliminary Environmental Report with Non-Technical Summary, which includes details of the proposals, will be available from 31 January 2011 from the following sources:
www.vattenfall.co.uk/en/kentish-flats-extension.htm
Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB – There will be a charge of £5 for posted reports which will be provided as printed copies or on CD. The documents may also be viewed at:
Council offices
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury
Kent, CT1 1YW
Opening hours for these offices are Monday – Friday 8:30am to 5pm.
The documents will be available until 4 March 2011. You can write to us with your comments to Mandy Broughton, Kentish Flats Extension, Vattenfall Wind Power, 10 Greycoat Place, London, SW1P 1SB or email mandy.broughton@vattenfall.com. The deadline for written responses to our pre-application consultation is 4 March 2011.

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for Grant, Variation of a Premises Licence.

Notice is hereby given that Andrew Forrest and Valerie Hobbs have applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the grant, variation of a premises licence in respect of premises known as The Vigo Inn Gravesend Road Fairseat Kent TN15 7JL. The application seeks the license in respect of the following. The sale of alcohol The provision of regulated entertainment The provision of late night entertainment. Details of the register of record of the application can be viewed at Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices (licensing Dept), Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling during normal office hours. Any representation from interested parties or responsible authorities must be made in writing to the council by 07/02/11. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £5000.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Sudha Patel**
Of **156 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AJ**
Has applied to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR for the VARIATION of an off license application
Hours for sale of alcohol: Monday to Sunday 6am until 11pm
For the premises **Jerry News**
Situating at: **156 High Street Gillingham Kent ME7 1AJ**
Interested parties can make written representations to Medway Council Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham ME4 4TR or view my application by contacting the Council on 01634 337 107 or 01634 337 108 by **11th February 2011**
It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a Licence Application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is £5,000.

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-
Name of Premises: **Little Hermitage, Gravesend Road, Higham**
Applicant: **Mrs Geraldine Cox**
The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



Town and Country Planning Acts

- The Council is required to give notice of the following applications
- 10/04145/LBC** **Scribbens Walkhurst Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing single storey building to rear and erection of two storey rear extension. Replacement porch. Demolition of existing garage and change of use of land to locate the new garage and access (LB)
- 10/04146/HOUSE** **Hodges Oast Dundle Road, Branchley**
- Alteration to existing cat-slide roof to form pitched roof to match adjacent granary (LB)
- 10/04131/HOUSE** **Hancocks Farm House Tilsden Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Replacement building to provide pool plant, changing facilities, garage/store to ground floor, recreational accommodation and kitchen to first floor (LB)
- 11/00032/HOUSE** **Bettenham Manor Bettenham Lane, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Construction of an all weather surface tennis/ball court and enclosure (LB)
- 11/00024/FUL** **21 - 23 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Extension of Time - Change of use from offices to two residential units (TW/08/00060/FUL refers) (CA) (LB)
- 11/00025/LBC** **21 - 23 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Change of use from offices to two residential units (TW/08/00062/LBC refers) (LB)
- 10/04126/HOUSE** **Lidwells House North Road, Goudhurst**
- Erection of two-storey side extension (re-instatement of a range on the site of a pre-existing demolished Victorian range), the removal of modern internal stud partition walls and the replacement of two windows with doors in the west elevation (LB)
- 10/04129/LBC** **Lidwells House North Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of two-storey side extension (re-instatement of a range on the site of a pre-existing demolished Victorian range), the removal of modern internal stud partition walls and the replacement of two windows with doors in the west elevation (LB)
- 11/00026/HOUSE** **Whites Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Three-bay cart shed garage (CA) (LB)
- 11/00041/FUL** **Barn Little Bewlbridge Farm, Goudhurst**
- Extension of time - Barn and stable conversion into two new dwellings including garage and carport (TW07/03703 refers) (LB)
- 11/00003/FULMJ** **Hawkhurst Castle Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Extension of Time - Demolition of existing building, and the erection of a C2 elderly person care home with 65 beds and 11 C2 assisted living cottages for the over 60s and realignment of the Hearten Oak Road (TW/08/01622/FULMJ refers) (MAJOR)
- 11/00009/HOUSE** **2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Single storey ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension; Attic conversion; Internal alterations, including repositioning of staircase (LB)
- 11/00012/LBC** **2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey ground floor rear extension and first floor rear extension; Attic conversion; Internal alterations, including repositioning of staircase (LB)
- 10/03995/FUL** **The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**
- Single storey rear extension associated internal works (CA) (LB)
- 10/04001/LBC** **The Swan At The Vineyard The Down, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey rear extension associated internal works (LB)
- 10/04164/LBC** **5 Coggers Cottages The Broadway, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection (LB)
- 11/00035/LBC** **Victoria House High Street, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection measures (LB)
- 11/00047/LBC** **Arnold House High Street, Lamberhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Flood protection measures (LB)
- 10/04119/TELNS** **Land Outside 2 Carlton Road, Park**
- Telecommunication Notification - installation of new green coloured replacement cabinet shell (CA)
- 11/00001/FULMJ** **Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Pembury Hospital, Pembury**
- Extension/enlargement of 2 car parks approved under application TW/07/2595/FULMJ to provide 100 extra car parking spaces (LB) (MAJOR)
- 11/00013/LBC** **Flat 3 Benthall Hill House, Southborough North**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of internal timber partition wall (non-load bearing) (LB)
- 11/00029/FUL** **Sheffield Hall Sheffield Road, Southborough North**
- Conversion of disused former office building into 3 apartments (CA)
- 11/00042/HOUSE** **61 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Small dormer to north facing roof slope of rear roof structure (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA)
Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST)
Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 January 2011



Highways – District of Sevenoaks

(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION OF PARKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011

NOTICE is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 47, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act: This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.30am to 9.30am and from 3.00pm to 4.00pm during school term times an infringement which may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice.

The location is-

- A225 High Street, Eynsford, Sevenoaks on the north western side between the following distances from the junction with Mill Lane;
- from a point in line with the south western boundary of property Ashprington for a distance of 28 metres in a south westerly direction;
 - between points 86 metres and 118 metres south west of a point in line with property Ashprington.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford and Sessions House County Hall, Maidstone, during normal opening times. If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, St Lawrence House, 48A West Hill, Dartford DA1 2EU by noon on Monday 14 February 2011.

Highways – District of Shepway

(PROHIBITION OF STOPPING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

This Order is necessary for safety reasons, and will make stopping on the "School Keep Clear" zig-zag markings on the following lengths or road from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 5.00pm during school term times an infringement may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge notice. The locations are-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| High Street - Brookland | Church Road - Folkestone |
| Countryside - Dymchurch | New Road - Elham |
| Park Farm Road - Folkestone | Baldwin Road - Greatstone |
| Mill Lane - Hawkinge | Queens Road - Lydd |
| Skinner Road - Lydd | Bossingham Road - Stelling Minnis |
| Stowting Hill - Stowting | Claythorne Lane - New Romney |
| Horn Street - Folkestone | Church Road - Lympne |
| Octavian Drive - Lympne | School Road - Saltwood |
| Main Road - Sellinge | Haven Drive - Hawking |

In Lucy Avenue, Folkestone the hours of operation for the school keep clear markings will be from Mondays to Fridays from 8.00am to 6.00pm during school term times.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm, at Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford and at Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent during normal opening hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order, you should send the grounds for your objection in writing to Highway Services, Transport and Development, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on 14 February 2011.

RECTORY LANE, BROOKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is given that because of works to carry out tree-cutting and aerial cabling, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, Brookland, on or after 9 February 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed. The road will be closed between the junctions with Oldhouse Lane and King Street.

The alternative route is via Oldhouse Lane, Carter Lane and King Street. The road will be closed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day and re-opened outside these hours.

Highways – District of Thanet

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING – A225 HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS)

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

A225 HIGH STREET, EYNSFORD, SEVENOAKS
178 metres south west of the junction with Mill Lane.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge and Malling

(EAST MALLING PARKING PLAN – IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING) (WAITING RESTRICTION AND ON-STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 4) ORDER, 2010

Notice is hereby given that the **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL** acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2 & 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended, and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act, proposes to make the above Order.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce The East Malling Parking Plan to improve access, safety and balance parking availability, as follows:

- A Residents Preferential Parking scheme is proposed for the following roads: **Chapel Street, Church Walk, High Street**, eastern end of **Mill Street** and the **Access Road to The Village Car Park**, With parking restricted to marked, designated on-street parking bays where road width, junctions and access points allow, with a limit of 4 hours (no return 2 hours) between 8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday. Qualifying permit holders to be exempt from these restrictions.
- It is proposed to install restrictions in the lay-by in **Twisden Road** to assist with customer parking with parking limited to 1 hour (no return 1 hour) between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
- Advisory roadside parking areas without waiting restrictions are proposed at the southern end of **Middle Mill Road** and the western end of **Mill Street**, where road width, junctions and access points allow to reduce obstruction and improve access for through traffic and public transport services.
- An additional Disabled Persons Parking Bay is proposed in **Church Walk** and in the **Access Road** to The Village Car Park.
- It is proposed to reduce the operating times of existing day-time waiting restrictions (single yellow lines) in The **Rocks Road** to prohibit parking between 10am to 10.30am Monday to Friday and extend this restriction towards the junction of **Gilletts Lane**. The same day-time restrictions are proposed for the full length of **Rocks Close**. These restrictions are proposed as a minimum measure to prevent long-term parking near East Malling Train Station.
- It is proposed to introduce no waiting "At Any Time" (double yellow lines) in specific locations where it is necessary to reinforce the rules of the Highway Code and prevent parking in unsuitable places - **The Access Road to The Village Car Park, Beech Road, Busbridge Close, Carnation Close, Carnation Crescent, Chapman Way, Chapel Street, Columbine Road, Cottenham Close, Elm Crescent, High Street, Jasmine Road, Larkspur Road, Lavender Road, Lilac Green, Lime Crescent, Mill Street, Middle Mill Road, New Road, Rocks Road, Stickens Lane, The Grange, The Rocks Road, Twisden Road and Wateringbury Road**.
- It is proposed to amend the layout of the 'School Keep Clear' restrictions in **Chapman Way** to protect the revised vehicular and pedestrian accesses arrangements to St James the Great Primary School and The Childrens Centre. This is to support the aims of the School Travel Plan to improve safety for vulnerable child pedestrians. No change is proposed to the operating times of the existing restrictions.

The Order sets the cost of a residents parking permit at £30 per annum (£120 for business permits) which includes a card of 10 visitors vouchers. Additional visitors vouchers are set at the cost of £10 for a card of 10 visitors vouchers.

The Order will contain the usual exemptions to enable a vehicle to wait with police permission or for passengers to board or alight, for the loading and unloading of goods, for enabling work to be carried out in or adjacent to the road, for disabled persons and for emergency vehicles.

A copy of the Order together with a map, a copy of the Councils reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Tonbridge and Malling Council Offices, Kings Hill, Tonbridge Castle Gateway Centre, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall Maidstone and East Malling and Larkfield Parish Council Offices, Church Farm, New Hythe Lane, Larkfield

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please telephone **01732 876222** during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to support or object to the Order should write to the Director of Planning, Transportation and Leisure, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by not later than **12 Noon on Monday, 14th February, 2011**.

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Parking Action Plan

The East Malling Parking Plan is a community built project developed through consultation with local people

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 2XQ

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Jag's roaring success

By **STEVE LOADER**

ENGLAND'S cricketing success in The Ashes series is just one reason to be cheerful at Jaguar.

Since the classic British sporting marque began a four-year sponsorship of the rejuvenated team last summer – all England players now drive a Jag – it has also scored several other boundaries.

Its flagship XJ model has taken leadership of the director-level segment of the market against tough opposition such as the Mercedes-Benz S-Class and BMW 7-Series, despite only arriving on the market in May. Sales of the XK sports coupe and convertible also leapt 15 per cent in 2010 – double the rate of growth in its sector and in tough times.

And Jaguar's best-selling XF middleweight model has just enjoyed another record year of sales – up 25 per cent. It has now set sales records three years on the trot.

This has been helped by an astonishing record in awards around the world; it now has more than 80, including confirmation this week of a fourth consecutive win as



NEW BOUNDARIES: England cricket team sponsorship deal has coincided with a surge in sales for Jaguar's line-up (XJ main picture)

'Best Executive Car' at the annual What Car? Awards.

What Car? editor-in-chief Steve Fowler said: "We love everything about the XF: it looks fantastic, drives brilliantly and makes real financial sense, too."

Reviewing a great year for his brand, Jaguar MD Geoff Cousins said the key to success was desirable new models, competi-

tive offers and a big-hitting TV advertising campaign for the XF and XJ, all helping to drive retail sales.

But, he added: "We have also undertaken some incredibly successful partnerships in 2010, most notably with the ECB and the Ashes-winning cricket team."

"Since we started our association with the team they have been on a winning

streak and the response from dealers and customers has been incredibly positive. We look forward to welcoming them home."

Pricing for the Jaguar XF now starts at £31,900 for the 3.0-litre diesel, while the XK starts at £63,900 and the XJ, from £55,500.

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07 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 57,500 miles. £9,995

05 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Satin Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 47,800 miles. £6,995

09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £8,995 interior

08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

57 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Classic 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £5,995

53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.2 Comfort 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 49,488 miles. £3,495

Other Makes

59 Plate. SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi S Emocion 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,300 miles. £11,995

58 Plate. Fiat 500 1.3 MultiJet Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Pasodoble Red with a Grey Velour - Leather interior, 27,100 miles. £9,795

51 Plate. BMW 3 Series 2.5 325Ci 2-Dr Convertible

Finished in Titanium Silver Metallic with a Grey Leather interior, 44,300 miles. £8,995

55 Plate. Peugeot 407 SW 2.0 HDi 136 SE (Luxury)

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 44,500 miles. £7,995

06 Plate. Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i T3 5-Dr

Finished in Eclipse Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 32,500 miles. £5,995

08 Plate. Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Gunmetal Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,800 miles. £5,995

56 Plate. Honda Jazz 1.4i-DSI SE 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Ice Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,135 miles. £5,795

08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Metallic Machine Silver, 12,500 miles. £4,995

06 Plate. Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

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*Correct at time of going to press.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



Secret success of Mazda MPV

MAZDA'S revitalised MPV, the Mazda5, has been described as the 'best kept secret' in its sector by motor trade valuation service CAP.

The seven-seater arrived in showrooms last autumn and is now starting to filter into the used car market where CAP's market watchers have rated its residual values above that of established rivals, including the Citroen C4 Grand Picasso, Ford Grand C-Max, Peugeot 5008, Renault Grand Scenic and Vauxhall Zafira.

The Mazda's styling is distinctive, with a wave motif worked into the flanks; love it or hate it, the device does enable the car to stand out in a sector where the basic single box MPV design has a tendency to make models look alike.

This boost to the Mazda's sales appeal coincides with the arrival of a 115PS (113bhp) 1.6-litre diesel option, complementing the 1.8 and 2.0-litre petrol engines offered at launch.

The new version costs £20,650 in TS2 form and £21,950 in Sport trim and a low emission level of 138g/km makes it attractive to tax conscious company car drivers.

Dartford-based Mazda UK's fleet chief Peter Allibon said: "Once again, the experts are forecasting strong residual value and competitive whole life cost figures for another Mazda model. Added to a CO2 figure of below 140g/km we anticipate the new 1.6D will prove popular with fleet operators and company car drivers."

Glitzy but brawny Landie special



IF YOU thought Land Rover's brawny Defender was above wearing limited edition trappings, think again.

Because the 4x4 icon is due to appear from March in eye-catching X-Tech guise: silver exterior with black roof and wheel arches, 'Ebony' interior with leather side bolsters to the seats, and distinctive 16-inch 'Saw Tooth' alloys.

The Defender's renowned all-terrain ability also comes as standard in a package costing £24,995.

This special version is based on the 90 Hard Top Commercial derivative, with a 2.4-litre diesel engine.

Double plus for 3008

PEUGEOT has added two new models to the 3008 range, which has just retained the 'Crossover of the Year' title at the annual What Car? awards.

The Peugeot, which is part MPV, part 4x4 lookalike and part family hatchback, gains an SR and ENVY Special Edition in addition to the Active, Sport and Exclusive launch options.

The SR (from £20,645) is based on the Sport model, but gains colour sat nav, Bluetooth, and Grip Control with 16-inch alloys with mud and snow tyres – Grip Control allows the front-driven 3008 to deliver traction on a par with a similar all-wheel drive car.

The ENVY (from £18,895) is also based on the Sport, but has been given an exclusive extra spec including rear privacy glass, aluminium exterior highlights, 'head-up' display and panoramic glass roof.



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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. *Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes. Prices correct at time of press.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO2 emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO2 emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions 119g/km.

Motability

Platoon training under way

by
STEVELOADER

THEY say be careful what you wish for.

So I've only got myself to blame after joking in print about cars so dull to drive that you feel like putting your feet up, reading the paper and having a cup of tea, since that's exactly what we may be able to do on motorways within a decade.

It would be enabled by a development known as 'Platooning' – the objective of an EU-funded project called SARTRE (Safe Road Trains for the Environment).

The idea is that cars will be able to join an automatically-controlled convoy of other vehicles headed by a professional driver, allowing the following drivers to have a cuppa, read or presumably snooze even.

Meanwhile, each car is guided by the lead vehicle, with a narrow gap between cars to relieve traffic congestion. The system would



also reduce fuel consumption and emissions, yet individual cars can leave the procession at any time.

The road train would also require no modification to the roads used and could integrate safely with non-train vehicles.

Science fiction? No. A working prototype has just been demonstrated by Volvo, one of the partners in a three-year European project headed by a British firm, Ricardo UK.

Tom Robinson, project co-ordinator for SARTRE said: "Platooning offers the prospect of improved road safety, better road space utilisation, improved driver comfort on long journeys and reduced fuel consumption and hence CO2 emissions."

The system could also be a major safety aid; statistics show human error causes at least 80 percent of road accidents.

But while the technology could soon be ready, road users in 25 EU countries may be less prepared to hand over control.

Time for another cuppa then, and some serious thinking.

Focus in March

FORD has confirmed that its all-new Ford Focus will be in showrooms for March, priced from £15,995.

It will be available initially in sporty five-door hatchback and suave five-door estate formats that bode well for a racy coupe style three-door model at a later date.

It distances this new car from the fairly

humdrum styling of the second generation Focus too.

As a model that Ford will market around the world, the new Focus will also feature a range of advanced technologies, plus the more efficient, low-CO2 powertrains required by buyers and legislation.

These will include the new 1.6-litre Ford EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engine as well as updated versions of the marque's 1.6- and 2.0-litre diesels.



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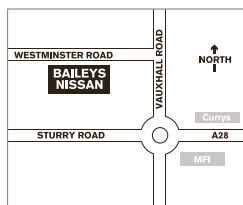


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07 07	CORSA 1.0 LIFE A/C 3DR, Flame Red, 42,500 miles	£5395	£4995
07 57	CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 3DR, Flame Red, 49,370 miles	£6495	£5995
07 57	CORSA 1.2 SXI A/C 3DR, Star Silver, 9,635 miles	£6795	£6500
08 57	CORSA 1.6 VXR 3DR, Arden Blue, 23,500 miles	£9995	£9635
08 08	CORSA 1.2 BREEZE+ 3DR, Silver Lightning, 16,900 miles	£7495	£7095
08 08	CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE 3DR, Lightning Silver, 24,590 miles	£7995	£7495
08 08	CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE 5DR, Flame Red, 41,275 miles	£7295	£6995
08 08	CORSA 1.3 CDTi BREEZE+ 3DR, Flame Red, 16,355 miles	£7495	£7150
08 58	CORSA 1.3 CDTi A/C 5DR, Silver Lightning, 16,300 miles	£7495	£7275
09 59	CORSA 1.0 ACTIVE 3DR, Flame Red, 4,000 miles	£7995	£7795
09 59	CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE 3DR, Star Silver, 7180 miles	£8995	£7995
10 10	CORSA 1.3 CDTi ACTIVE 3DR, 7750 miles	£9495	£9250
10 10	CORSA 1.3 CDTi ACTIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 4,925 miles	£10495	£10295
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 1.2 3DR, Black Sapphire, 2,340 miles	£9995	£9495
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lightning, 2,045 miles	£8995	£8750
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10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Metro Blue, Del miles	£9495	£8995
10 10	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lake, Del miles	£9495	£8995
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10 60	CORSA 1.2 ENERGY 3DR, White, Del miles	£9495	£9495
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08 09	ASTRA 1.4 SXI SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Red, 16,810 miles	£8995	£8695
09 59	ASTRA 1.8 SPORTS TWIN TOP 2DR, Air Blue, 3,320 miles	£14995	£11995
09 59	ASTRA 1.4 ACTIVE SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Sovereign Silver, 8,040 miles	£9995	£9600
10 59	ASTRA 2.0 VXR 3DR, Arden Blue, 5,660 miles	£16995	£15995
10 10	ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 5,010 miles	£11495	£9995
10 10	ASTRA 1.8 SRI X PACK 3DR, Black Sapphire, 3,490 miles	£13995	£11995
10 10	ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SRI 5DR, Black Sapphire, 3,330 miles	£18995	£17995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SRI 5DR, Power Red, 4,880 miles	£15995	£14995
10 10	ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE AUTO 5DR, Silver Lake, 1100 miles	£14995	£12995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Iceberg Blue, 3,000 miles	£12995	£11495
10 10	ASTRA 1.4 SPORT SPORTS HATCH 3DR, Power Red, 2,065 miles	£11995	£10995
10 10	NEW ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 2,210 miles	£15995	£11975
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06 06	MERIVA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles	£5995	£5995
07 57	MERIVA 1.4 ENERGY 5DR, Star Silver, 31,100 miles	£6495	£6250
08 58	MERIVA 1.8 DESIGN X PACK 5DR, Air Blue, 7,600 miles	£8795	£8495



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09 59	ZAFIRA 1.8 ACTIVE+ 5DR, Ultra Blue, 5,670 miles	£13495	£11995
09 59	ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN 5DR, Panacotta, 5,675 miles	£17495	£13995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.8 ENERGY 5DR, Sovereign Silver, 15,700 miles	£13995	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.8 ENERGY 5DR, Black Sapphire, 4,325 miles	£13995	£12995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE A/C 5DR, Ultra Blue, 4,690 miles	£12995	£11995
10 10	ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTi ENERGY 5DR, Star Silver, 2,390 miles	£14995	£14695
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09 09	INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIVE PLUS PACK 5DR, Sovereign Black, 11,400 miles	£11495	£10995
10 10	INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 6,395 miles	£15495	£14995
10 10	INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi EXCLUSIVE 5DR, Black Sapphire, 10,180 miles	£14995	£14475
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08 58	VECTRA 2.2 DESIGN 5DR, Ultra Blue, 20,345 miles	£7795	£7600
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06 06	MERIVA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 5DR, Star Silver, 28,000 miles	£5995	£5995
06 55	ASTRA 1.6 SXI 5DR, Moonland, 62,800 miles	£4995	£4995
07 57	ASTRA 1.8 ELITE 5DR, Star Silver, 19,000 miles	£7495	£7495
08 57	ASTRA 1.4 SXI 3DR, Flame Red, 30,200 miles	£7695	£7695
09 59	INSIGNIA 2.0 SRI 4X4 5DR, Black Sapphire, 7500 miles	£15495	£15495

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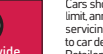
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10 10	COMBO VAN 1.2 5DR, Glacier White, Del miles	£8995+VAT	£8495+VAT
10 10	ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SPORTIVE 3DR, Sovereign Silver, Del Miles	£8995+VAT	£8495+VAT
10 10	NEW MOVANO 2.3 5DR, Halo Silver, Del Miles	£17995+VAT	£16995+VAT
10 10	VIVARO LWB 2.0 5DR, Glacier White, 7,350 miles	£11995+VAT	£11495+VAT
10 10	VIVARO 2.0 DOUBLE CAB SPORTIVE 5DR, Star Silver, 2,370 miles	£14995+VAT	£13995+VAT
NON NETWORK Q SELECTION		was	now
02 02	CORSA 1.0 SE 3DR, Flame Red, 49,065 miles	£2795	£2500
04 54	CORSA 1.0 ENERGY 3DR, Silver Lightning, 37,000 miles	£3495	£3495
05 55	CORSA 1.2 SXI A/C 3DR, Ultra Blue, 48,450 miles	£3995	£3750
05 55	CORSA 1.2 BREEZE+ 5DR, Black Sapphire, 64,264 miles	£3995	£3695
05 55	AGILA ENJOY 1.2 5DR, Blue, 39,850 miles	£3295	£2995
05 55	ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN ESTATE 5DR, Star Silver, 11,325 miles	£5495	£5195
06 55	ASTRA 1.6 SXI 5DR, Black Sapphire, 55,800 miles	£5995	£5495
03 53	ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB 5DR, Rubens Red, 55,640 miles	£3495	£3195
07 07	ZAFIRA 1.6 ENERGY 5DR, Silver Lightning, 63,520 miles	£5995	£5650
06 06	MITSUBISHI LANCER 1.6 4DR, Grey, 52,825 miles	£3995	£3695
05 05	SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 3DR, Blue, 45,160 miles	£3995	£3995
05 55	PEUGEOT 206 CCALLURE 1.6, Blue, 35,000 miles	£5995	£5495
05 55	PEUGEOT 206 VERVE 1.4 5DR, Grey, 51,725 miles	£4495	£4250
04 54	FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX, 5DR, Star Silver, 45,780 miles	£3995	£3695



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09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£9499	£7999	£1500
58 FORD FOCUS DIESEL ESTATE 1.8 TDCI ZETEC 5DR (2008 - 2009) 20429 MILES	£9999	£8499	£1500
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18890 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
09 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110] [DPF] (2008 -) 18164 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
08 FORD FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DR 0 MILES	£13999	£13299	£700
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£8999	£7999	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£8799	£7799	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2008 -) 14960 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES	£8799	£7799	£1000
10 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI ZETEC S 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18440 MILES	£16999	£15599	£1400
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6499	£1500
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6499	£1500
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14476 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES	£7799	£6999	£800
57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 17012 MILES	£7999	£6999	£1000
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 82PS STAGE V (-) 12705 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES	£8999	£7499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR	£11999	£10499	£1500
56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE]	£5999	£5499	£500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE (2009) 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI (-) 14130 MILES	£11999	£10499	£1500
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ZETEC S (2010.5) 3 DR 1.6 TDCI 90PS STAGE V (-) 16315 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK ECONETIC (2009) 5 DR 1.6 TDCI 90 + DPF (-) 15188 MILES	£12999	£11999	£1000
57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 9655 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
57 FORD KA 1.2 STYLE 3DR	£7499	£6999	£500
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09 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM X 5DR (2007 - 2010) 23205 MILES	£13999	£12999	£1000
59 FORD MONDEO DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [140] AUTO (2008 - 2010) 25236 MILES	£13499	£12799	£700
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (I) 5 DR 1.6 DURATEC 125PS (-) 14438 MILES	£8499	£7999	£500
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
57 FORD MONDEO PETROL HATCHBACK ZETEC (2006) 5-DR AUTO 1.6 100PS (-) 10750 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR 0 MILES	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500
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57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES	£6999	£5999	£1000
02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK]	£5999	£4999	£1000
08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR	£11999	£9999	£2000
08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008)	£3999	£3499	£500

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DrivingReview



by
STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Vauxhall Astra 1.7CDTi Ecoflex

REMEMBER the good old days when an estate car was an estate car?

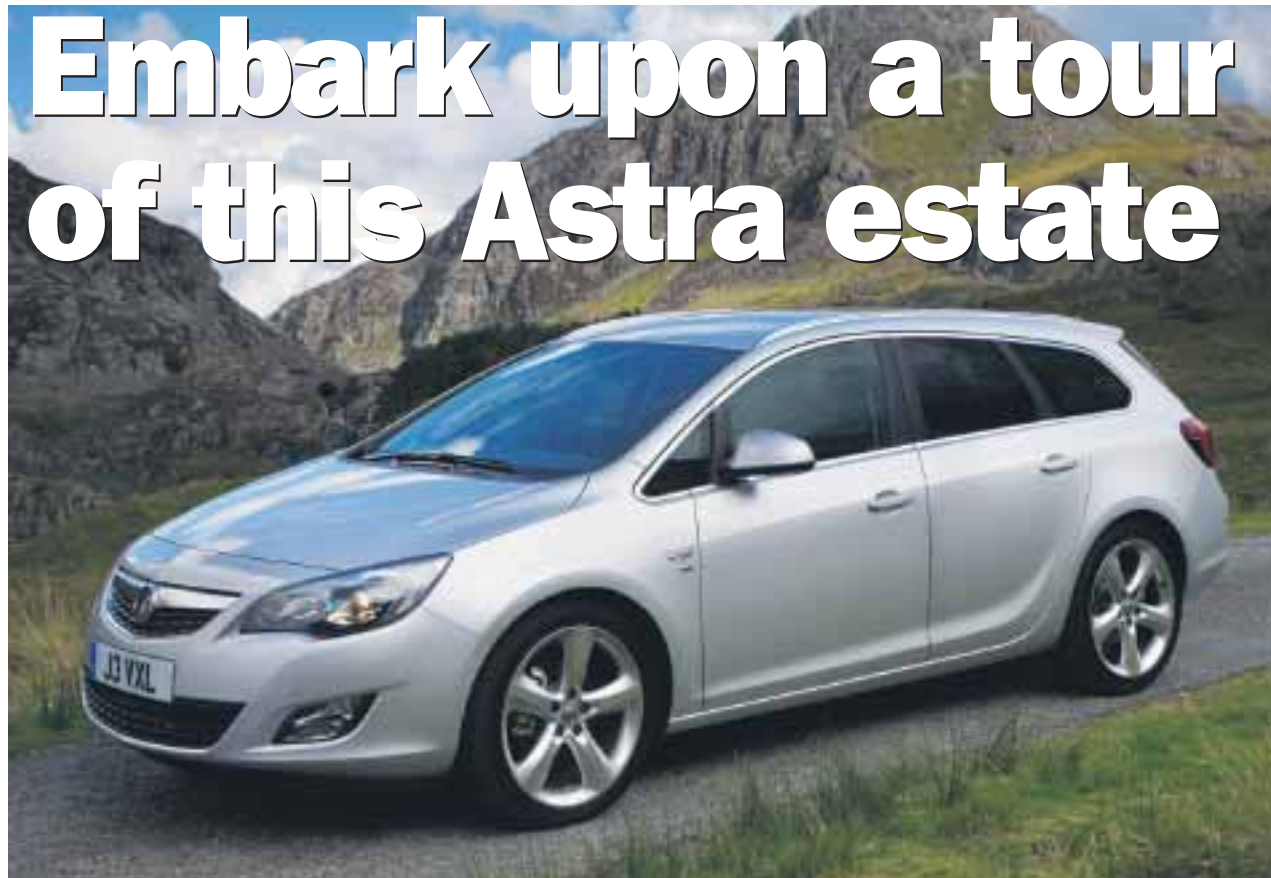
Unfortunately though, instead of suggesting that the car was part and parcel of some large and affluent rural establishment, the term 'estate car' came to imply that parts and parcels were all it carried, as a workhorse of tradesmen and sales reps.

So, in a bid to revive its status, manufacturers began applying new words and styles to revitalise this traditional sector.

The Germans started it – let's have no more recriminations – when BMW dubbed its estate models with the term 'Touring', and Audi went further with 'Avant', both creating a rural/sporty lifestyle image that attracted new buyers

The word 'Tourer' also became popular and Vauxhall has applied the label Sports Tourer to its latest Astra estate model and, to be fair, it rests well on it.

The previous 2004-vintage Astra load lugger really was a tradesman/rep estate car; it was capacious, being based on the stretched



Astravan platform, but ordinary looking and never likely to capture the lifestyle buyer.

Not an accusation that can be levelled at its more exotically named 2010 successor.

This is a class act, like the five-door hatchback from which it is derived, being good to

look at, drive and be in and more than justifying the cocky label.

In fact, it's in a class of its own for now; I have put the Ford Focus down in the fact file as its most obvious estate rival, but it's plain to look at and eking out its last few days

before replacement by an all-new model.

Closest in style to the Astra currently is Renault's Megane Sport Tourer, which looks racy but cannot match the Vauxhall for a level of class or quality that even nibbles at Audi A3 Sportback premium territory – yup,

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DrivingPortfolio

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi
ECOFLEX £22,005**

Driving appeal (OUT OF FIVE)	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★★★
Road tax	£30/year (zero in year one)
Best rival	Ford Focus Estate

TheVerdict



DON'T LIKE:
unrealistic list prices



NOT SURE:
the Vauxhall badge can yet deliver the snob appeal the new Astra range deserves



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how Astra puts the 'estate' class back into the sector

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that's another estate car by another name.

To further scare the Astra Sports Tourer's outclassed rivals, there is also an efficient environmentally friendly Ecoflex version, as tested here.

The 125PS (123bhp) 1.7-litre diesel doesn't ask for any sacrifices to go green; it is lively, fun to drive and refined, and should average around 60mpg, while also costing just £30 a year in road tax after a freebie in year one.

And it handles well while delivering a decent ride, thanks to the Astra's much trumpeted Watts linkage rear suspension set-up that keeps the car taut on corners, without the

need for teeth-shattering shock absorption.

Admittedly, the Ecoflex is not cheap at more than 22 grand, but list prices are there to be ignored, especially in the current climate.

Strike the right deal and the Astra will more than repay your faith. You can't even criticise the badge as too mainstream; Vauxhall has been moving upmarket over the past few years as General Motors seeks to pitch Chevrolet as its value brand.

Vauxhall design inside and out has also improved out of all recognition, with the bigger Insignia winning the 2009 European Car of the Year gong and the Astra and Meriva MPV

narrowly pipped to the same title for 2010 and 2011 respectively.

Vauxhall, of course, has banged on lots about how it re-thought and applied its branded Flex treatment to the latest and airiest Astra cabin, but you need time with the car to appreciate how well it all works.

Not surprisingly, the extra functionality of the Tourer is also a huge bonus literally, especially as the sleeky profile does nothing to affect the car's practicality – this Astra load-lugger is actually one of the most crammable in its class, but for the rather more functional Kia Ceed SW.

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2003 53 Reg SAAB 9-3 2.0T Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 121,170 miles, Metallic Black, 3 Owners, Sat Nav, Bluetooth Handsfree, Leather seat trim, Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Alloy wheels, Service indicator, Immobiliser, Foglights, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Isofix child seat anchor points, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Alarm, Headlight washers, Body coloured bumpers, Rear armrest, PAS, Air conditioning, Anti theft system, Climate Control, Full Service History, Sports seats, Tinted glass **£3,995**

2001 Y Reg SAAB 9-5 2.0T SE, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 102,941 miles, Metallic silver grey, 4 Owners, Heated door mirrors, ABS, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Cruise control, Folding rear seats, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Side airbags, Leather upholstery, Front electric windows, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, Audio remote control, Front head restraints, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Air conditioning, Alarm, Central locking, Front armrest, Child locks, Headlight washers, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Traction control, Body coloured bumpers, PAS, Climate Control, Service indicator, Electric mirrors, Remote locking **£2,495**

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2007 57 MODUS 1.2 EXPRESSION A/C CD CLOAKING ELEC PACK 19558 MILES METALLIC MERCURY	£5,995	£5,795	C
2008 08 GRAND MODUS 1.5DCI DYNAMIQUE AIRCON ALLOYS CLOAKING 31879 MILES METALLIC BLACK	£7,995	£7,495	C
2009 59 GRAND MODUS 1.2TCE DYNAMIQUE ALLOY AIRCON FOLDING MIRRORS 6564 MILES METALLIC STONE	£13,705	£8,495	M
MEGANE			
2007 07 MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AUTO 16 ALLOYS CD A/C SUNROOF ELEC PACK 17322 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£5,995	£5,795	A
2008 58 MEGANE 5/TOURER 1.9 DCI 130 DYN 16 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 34482 MILES ECLIPSE GREY	£6,495	£5,995	A
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2008 08 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V EXPRESSION ALLOYS CD PLAYER CLOAKING 15500 MILES MET EXTREME BLUE	£6,595	£6,395	M
2009 59 NEW CLIO 3DR 1.2 75 EXTREME CD PLAYER TWIN AIR BAGS ABS 11403 MILES METALLIC STONE	£6,995	£6,495	C
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2008 08 TWINGO 1.2 TCE 100 GT AIRCON ALLOYS CLOAKING 26557 MILES CAPSICUM RED	£6,150	£5,995	M
2010 10 TWINGO 1.2 FREEWAY CD ABS ALLOYS CLOAKING 1623 MILES IN METALLIC SILVER	£6,795	£6,495	C
2009 09 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17 ALLOYS CUP PACK CD PLAYER 4217 MILES IN CAPSICUM RED	£9,495	£8,295	M
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2010 10 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17 ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 500 MILES EXTREME BLUE	£10,495	£12,995	A

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07 57 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-door Hatchback in Zenith Grey Metallic. 29,000 miles. Was: £9,995 **Now: £9,495** Save £500!
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AUDI

A3, Sport (Plus Motorparks Pack and Delivery), 2006, abs, alloys electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags single cd player remote central locking, blue, 35000 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 1.9 SPORTBACK TDI, 2006, abs brakes air con alloys cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags tonneau cover traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, silver, 22065 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 tdi se, 2006, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys central locking diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint traction control twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points 3x3 point heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, silver, 59000 miles, £9000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3, 1.6, 2010, abs brakes air con alloys cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags traction control remote central locking, silver, 8367 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 116 ES, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red-metallic, 22000 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i SE, 2003, abs brakes air con alloys drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player remote central locking, silver, 59551 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 330d M Sport, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit cd player climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid split folding rear seats sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, metallic silver, 45644 miles, £22500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i Edition SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 73553 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVERO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AVERO, LT, 2009, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering, grey, 8073 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser twin airbags, pearl black, 15782 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser twin airbags adjustable steering column, pearl black, 15782 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser twin airbags, pearl black, 15782 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 29000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 29000 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LACETTI, Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 29000 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 1.0 FLAIR 5dr CHOICE OF 5, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multi functional tuneport (i-pod and mp3 connection), silver, 31532 miles, £3999, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 1.0 FLAIR 5dr CHOICE OF 5, 2008, abs brakes air con central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags quickclear windscreen body coloured bumpers, silver, 25661 miles, £3999, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 1.0 FLAIR 5dr CHOICE OF 5, 2008, abs brakes air con central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multi functional tuneport (i-pod and mp3 connection), silver, 31532 miles, £3999, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, FORTE 1.6, 2007, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors, sahara gold, 47645 miles, £4900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6i 16v XTR, 2008, sahara gold, 7500 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, HDi lx, 2010, abs brakes immobiliser power steering, grey, 10 miles, £9900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, VTR 1.6TD, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted central locking diesel full service history immobiliser power steering remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, gold, 12512 miles, £10200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £10990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows, red, 50 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £10990, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, 16v, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows, gold, 55 miles, £12980, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, 16v, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

C4, SX, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats remote central locking isofix child seat points, silver, 15500 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C4, 16v, 2008, black, 55 miles, £20480, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, grey, 50 miles, £22000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, red, 50 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, black, 55 miles, £23980, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, red, 50 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 16v, 2008, black, 55 miles, £23980, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £23000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.2 Pop, 2010, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, blue, 1000 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 POP with AIR CON and BLUE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers height adj drivers seat, white, 29645 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 Pop 3dr 2010, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, white, 951 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2010, abs brakes bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, white, 5000 miles, £8800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Active, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, blue, 36743 miles, £5700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £16100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, T-Jet Active, 2010, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 2772 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.9, 2008, red, 7812 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 Active, 2010, abs brakes cd player immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, blue, 50 miles, £9495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet Eleganza, 2010, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit diesel electric windows mp3 player multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking twin sliding doors, various, 8 miles, £14200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.4 Active, 2010, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column, blue, 50 miles, £9595, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 5, bd57uhf, insurance group 7 1 owner service history abs air conditioning alarm audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electric door mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, sea grey, 31000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 9900 miles, £8995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Flame, 2003, panther black, 71700 miles, £3495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec Blue, 2009, ocean blue, 10100 miles, £7795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Edge, 2010, colorado red, 2000 miles, £9995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec (Plus Motorparks Pack and Delivery), 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player, black, 28659 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player remote central locking, grey, 32401 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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PINNING career hopes on a degree isn't always the best course. Big Interview subject Matt Sankey, who has taken on and expanded the family business in Tunbridge Wells, hated school until he went to a comprehensive and learned the skills that have stood him in such good stead. Vocational or in-job training may now be a better way to get on...



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Chamber's cash crash threatens to descend into 'Thamesgate' row

By **STEVE LOADER**

steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BOARD members are winding up Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce after its finances crashed over Christmas and New Year.

But the demise of the North Kent chamber now threatens to turn into a bitter row between the defunct chamber's board and the former chief executive Tracey Manley – a dispute sure to be dubbed 'Thamesgate'.

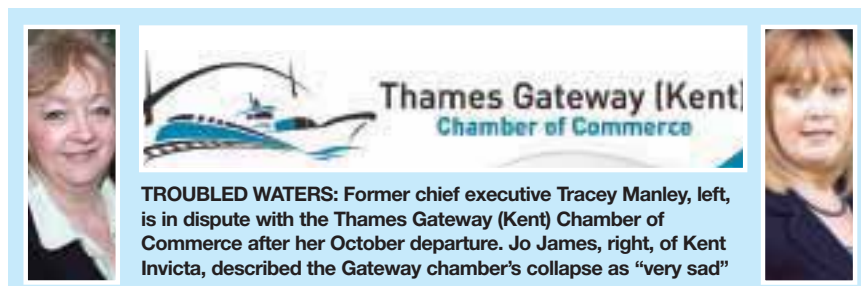
Manley has worked for the chamber and its forebears for 20 years, but claims she was forced out in October. She is now pursuing an employment tribunal case alleging wrongful and unfair dismissal as well as disability discrimination – she had been signed off work due to anxiety and depression.

Statement

But the chamber, which has offices at the Medway City Estate in Rochester and covers the area from Dartford to Swale, insists that its chief executive resigned her post.

Thames Gateway's final management board – elected a year ago – has posted a lengthy statement on the chamber's website highlighting its concerns about the organisation's financial position: "At the beginning of October the chief executive resigned as a director and employee of the Chamber. Since that date the board have worked tirelessly in an attempt to reach serviceable agreements with all known creditors... and work with staff many of whom have been disenchanted and disillusioned for some time and in trying to ensure the Chamber continued to provide benefit to its members and customers."

However, the statement admitted that income



TROUBLED WATERS: Former chief executive Tracey Manley, left, is in dispute with the Thames Gateway (Kent) Chamber of Commerce after her October departure. Jo James, right, of Kent Invicta, described the Gateway chamber's collapse as "very sad"

from export services faltered in late 2010 due to poor weather, which was then exacerbated by an alleged shortfall in membership numbers, which also impacted on income and left no option but to seek to wind-up the chamber last week.

Members have been recommended to seek help and advice from neighbouring chambers, notably the Channel Chamber covering east Kent, and the county's biggest chamber Kent Invicta, which stretches from Canterbury, through Ashford and to Maidstone.

Kent Invicta chief executive Jo James told Business Week the collapse of the chamber – which has its origins in the 1890s – was "very sad".

While unable to comment on the circumstances of Thames Gateway's crash, she added that it was important that her chamber – in concert with its parent, the British Chambers of Commerce – ensure that disenfranchised members of Thames Gateway should have access to all the usual services they expected.

"Kent Invicta has made it clear to Thames Gateway members that it will honour the subscriptions and provide the services they would have enjoyed until the end of the membership," she said.

"Of course we would hope they renew with us, but I just want to ensure that businesses in this

area are not left high and dry at a difficult time."

On the question of the export documentation and processing, in which Thames Gateway was the dominant player among Kent chambers, she said Kent Invicta had invested in two additional staff to cope with demand.

Asked whether she would then actively seek to absorb the Thames Gateway area, she said Kent had suffered a history of chamber collapses over the years and she would not rush to step in until she knew exactly why Thames Gateway had failed.

Salvaged

Tracey Manley has said she was unhappy with the statement issued by her former employer and countered with her own.

This included: "Everyone who knows me or has worked with me over the past 20 years knows that I was 100 per cent committed to my job with the Chamber. It was my life."

"Despite all that has happened to me personally, I remain very committed to the Chamber, its members and my former colleagues and hope that some way can be found for the Chamber can be salvaged and continue to provide the excellent support and services it has to members over so very many years."

Armour secures funding protection

ONE of the UK's biggest consumer electronics groups is committed to defying the economic downturn after agreeing a multi-million-pound credit line with GE Capital.

The £18 million overdraft will allow Armour Group, which has its headquarters at Tunbridge Wells, to press on with expansion plans in its home and in-car communications and entertainment markets. It expects to spend more than £80m over the coming year.

Armour employs more than 300 people across eight operating sites in the UK,

Sweden and Hong Kong. Major customers in the vehicle industry include Bentley, Hyundai, Scania Trucks, and Case New Holland tractors.

It also deals with retailing giants such as Halfords, Currys and PC World, Carphone Warehouse, Marks & Spencer, Comet, Argos, Tesco and John Lewis, yet Armour is probably all but unknown to most consumers as so much of its business is in supplying equipment to fit into others' products. Its best known brand is an enduring name in in-car audio: Radiomobile. Group CEO George Dexter

said: "Despite difficult market conditions we continue to focus on ambitious growth plans. We appreciate that the funding provided by GE Capital presents us with the opportunity to remain attractive to our customers and to maintain our competitive advantage."

Alan Austin, GE Capital regional director, said: "We are very pleased be working with this highly professional management team who are seeking to take advantage of exciting growth opportunities in what remains a challenging environment."

Comment

WE MAY be reading the last chapter on British Bookshops and Stationers, aka Sussex Stationers (see story opposite). During the current downturn, its formula – tidy but not flashy stores offering discounted books, stationery and greetings cards – should have fitted the shopper's bill, despite internet and supermarket competition.

But circumstances rather than the business model look like being the problem. One of those was undoubtedly an act of God: snowfall before Christmas, which wiped out the festive shopping windfall so crucial to many stores.

The other was cashflow. There can be many reasons for this, but a big clue here may be the sale of BBS to a private equity firm in 2009. Official interest rates may be low at present, but the county's business community know how hard it is to borrow cash on sensible terms, if at all.

The buyers of BBS took over a business that had expanded before the recession, yet just reported an annual loss of nearly £2 million. They probably hoped – in classic private equity style – to oversee a cost-cutting regime to both turn it around and turn a profit quickly and stay one step ahead of interest on money borrowed to fund their enterprise.

At the time, they may even have been encouraged by the crash of another big player in High Street bookstores, Borders, following an ill-fated private equity buyout. "More elbow room for us," they may have thought.

Unfortunately, they reckoned without a sluggish recovery on the High Street – and the pre-Christmas snow.

It is shaping up to be a familiar story. BBS could yet escape closure, but there will be other high street casualties to come that expanded on cheap borrowing and consumer abandon before the recession. They may have survived so far on increasingly expensive refinancing, but a day of reckoning looms.

Bigger potential victims are out there, too. Just months ago we reported fears for Kentish success story, Saga – the insurance and travel firm for the over-50s.

Still fabulously profitable in itself, the firm has to cope with massive interest payments on debt acquired by refinancing in 2007 to merge it with the AA within a private equity parent, Acromas. And there are many more cases like this, big and small.

BUSINESS EDITOR STEVE LOADER

Pedal to the legal metal in race to complete deal

LAW firm CooperBurnett claimed a coup after overcoming tight deadlines in the sale of Marden-based car parts supplier Automotive Distributors Ltd (ADL) to rival German group Ferdinand Bilstein.

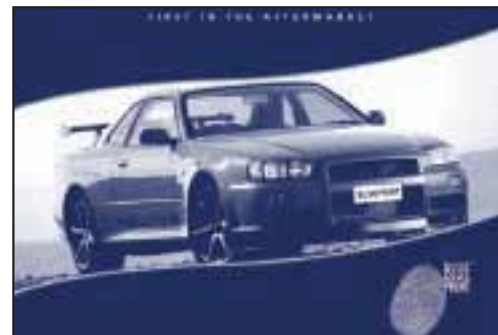
"We first had contact with the purchaser's solicitors on December 17 and the deal closed on January 4, so the timescales were extremely tight, particularly considering that the final days of the deal took place over Christmas and the New Year," said CooperBurnett partner Victoria Sampson, who also headed the team handling the deal.

The deal for ADL also included the company's subsidiaries in Spain and Italy, and all rights to the Kent company's Blue Print parts brand.

ADL's board and management team remain in place, with the exception of Mark Hookway and outgoing chairman Chris Jeffries, who retires after leading ADL for more than 22 years.

As part of the Bilstein group, ADL will focus on developing Blue Print as an international specialist for Japanese, Korean and American car parts.

"We were delighted with the advice CooperBurnett provided and how quickly they reacted," said ADL's MD Daren Ambrose. "This is a very positive move for the future of ADL and gives us access to resources to provide



POLE POSITION: Blue Print brand was part of the deal

both long-term security for our workforce [of 200] and the opportunity to truly internationalise the Blue Print brand."

Bilstein MD Karsten Schüßler-Bilstein, said the combined group would "Have the expertise, information and manufacturing links to provide the parts aftermarket worldwide with a truly complete, independent solution for all makes and models of vehicle."

New face boosts anniversary team



FROM LEFT: Richard Theobald, Jonathan Rowe and Victoria Sampson

COOPERBURNETT has announced the promotion of Jonathan Rowe to partner, and recruitment of Richard Theobald to join its wills and probate team.

Jonathan joined CooperBurnett in June, 2008, from a practice in Bermuda and previously worked in London,

and has a broad range of experience in all types of property transactions and issues. Richard qualified as a solicitor in September, 2009. The law firm is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and now has a team of 55, including 11 partners.

Beware of building up to court battle

COSTLY and increasing numbers of building disputes are jeopardising businesses in challenging times, according to a Hadlow-based surveyor.

Richard Metcalfe, principal at Metcalfe Briggs Surveyors, said there could be several reasons for the trend, but added: "Clients will often dispute that work has been completed satisfactorily in the hope of paying less, while hard-pressed building contractors might be tempted to take measures to protect their margins."

However, he warned that both courses could be false economies, embroiling firms in costly and lengthy legal battles that could have been avoided by a formal tendering process and agreeing a detailed specification for work to be carried out.

Warring firms could also head off a legal wrangle by calling in firms like his to arrange mediation by a chartered

building surveyor. "They will look at the original agreement and give an opinion as to whether what was agreed has been delivered and whether the quality of work justifies the amount of money being asked for," he said.

"It becomes almost a forensic examination and the resulting report will often persuade one of the parties in the dispute to back down."

If the dispute cannot be resolved without recourse to the courts, the surveyor's report can be turned into an expert witness statement.

"The law requires a commonsense solution to building disputes, so you will need professional advice to achieve that," said Richard.

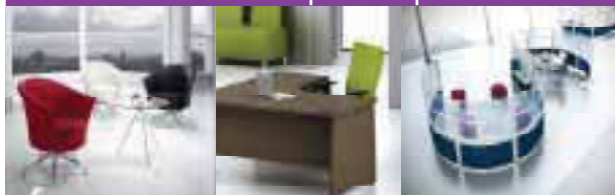
"Employing the services of a chartered building surveyor at an early stage could save you a lot of money in the long run."



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PLAYFOOT and Company has merged with Top 100 accountancy firm, Begbies Chettle Agar. The combined entity, Begbies Playfoot, retains the Playfoot offices in Stone Street, Cranbrook. Playfoot's managing partner and founder Darrell Playfoot will also continue with the new-look firm. He said: "It has been our concern to identify a firm whose expertise and operating style will suit and be advantageous for the interests of our particular client base and we trust Begbies Chettle Agar will be that firm."

However, he relinquishes his role as managing partner to Daniel Valentine from the Begbies team. He will divide his time between Cranbrook and the firm's London office and pledged that Playfoot's management and staff would stay in place.

Ironically, Begbies used to have a Kent office but relinquished it in 1973. Playfoot and Co was founded in 1986.

A NEW networking group will be launched by the north Kent branch of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in Medway at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham, from 7.30am to 9am on Thursday.

Staged in association with Help For Heroes, it is open to all businesses, FSB members and potential members, and will then be held at the same venue on every last Thursday of the month throughout 2011.

FSB branch chairman Neville Gaunt said the aim was to encourage local businesses to work and improve together as part of the FSB Keep Trade Local campaign. For more information, click on the website www.fsb.org.uk/FSBKentEvents

LAW firm associate Laura Small, of Cripps Harries Hall, has gained Resolution accredited specialist status in the area of children's law and financial provision on divorce.

Laura trained with Tunbridge Wells and London-based Cripps and has over five years' experience as a family solicitor.

She said: "As a committed Resolution member I approach all my cases in a non-confrontational manner, hopefully reducing the emotional and financial costs of divorce or separation."

Set up in 1999, the Resolution scheme is designed to help those facing family breakdown to find a specialist solicitor to handle their case in a conciliatory fashion.

To become accredited, solicitors undergo stringent examination to demonstrate their knowledge of the key areas.

Cripps is now one of just a few law firms in the South East with two Resolution accredited specialists.

BEEF and lamb producers across Kent have been invited to find out more about the work done by EBLEX, the organisation promoting the industry's quality standard mark.

The free event, at Ashford Market from 5.45pm to 9pm on Thursday, February 3, is intended to update on export markets for beef, lamb and offal, and on marketing, and there will be a butchery demonstration showing innovative meat cuts to maximise carcass value and versatility.

There will also be information on measures the sector can take to reduce its impact on climate change. To book a free place, email selma.todd@eblex.org.uk.

WEALDEN Business Group has presented a cheque for £800 to the Hospice in the Weald. The money was raised throughout last year by the group's weekly breakfasts at the Little Silver Country Hotel, Tenterden, and other events. The Pembury hospice's Amanda Wyatt accepted the cheque from business group chairman Mike Parmar, of Wave2 Communications.



RELAXED: Travelodge will open a new hotel in Ramsgate this year, says Guy Parsons

Parsons knows Kent coast can offer the most

LOCATIONS in Kent are part of expansion plans for Travelodge, which aims to sustain its claim to be the UK's fastest growing hotel chain.

It has 35 hotels (3,667 rooms), 700 new jobs and a £300 million spend slated for the UK this year to take its estate to 495 hotels.

These include re-development at Canterbury's Chaucer Central hotel and an all-new hotel on Ramsgate seafront.

The latter, on Royal Parade, will create 15 jobs and have 68 beds and a bar/café.

Guy Parsons, Travelodge chief executive, said the chain had hunted a hotel for the seafront for some time, adding: "I have no doubt that when the site opens it will quickly become one of our top performing hotels this summer."

Delighted

"Our nearby site in Margate has performed strongly for us throughout the recession so I am delighted we will be opening a new hotel in Ramsgate in 2011. The location is perfect for both business and leisure visitors."

"The hotels we will build this year have been a result of Travelodge's commitment to expand during the recession whilst many companies put their development on hold."

"As a result of the recession, we have successfully acquired superior sites due to lower market property prices, which otherwise would not have been available for hotel use."

Travelodge was Britain's first budget hotel brand when it launched in 1985, but it has also diversified away from its traditional roadside locations and focused more on city centre growth.

Tough trading has bookstore chain on brink

DISCOUNT bookstore British Bookshops and Stationers (BBS) – more familiarly known as Sussex Stationers – has gone into administration.

The firm has branches in Ashford, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone and around 50 in all across the South East, but has been brought to the brink by poor sales during the severe pre-Christmas weather and cashflow problems in its dealing with publishers.

But recovery specialists at Zolfo Cooper have been appointed as administrators and hope to sell the chain as a going concern, potentially saving some 300 jobs.

Zolfo Cooper partner Simon Appell said: "The appointment is, unfortunately, the result of cashflow difficulties suffered by the business, coupled with the tough trading climate for retailers and especially booksellers at present."

"This is an attractive company with a large network of stores across the south of England and we have already received expressions of interest from potential buyers."

The firm was founded in 1938 as Sussex Stationers in Brighton and steadily expanded recently with its formula of newspapers and magazines plus discounted books and stationery, despite the presence of high street giant WH Smith and mega-bookstores such as Waterstone's and the now defunct Borders, which crashed in 2009 citing tough competition from the internet – a factor

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



which may also have affected BBS.

An early warning sign was owner Eason and Sons' decision to sell BBS to private equity firm Endless in May, 2009, after a reported 2008 pre-tax loss of £1.8 million.

A management buy-out followed and the chain was reported to be making a recovery after a jobs and cost-cutting drive, but it now risks becoming the first High Street crash of 2011.

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German firm favours our sunny disposition



GERMAN solar energy specialist SunConcept Holding AG has expanded into the UK and set up a subsidiary at Kings Hill, near West Malling.

The Government's introduction of Feed-in Tariffs on April 1, 2010, for localised solar and wind power generation has made the UK attractive to solar energy companies anyway, but Catherine Stevens-Jung, MD of SunConcept's UK arm said: "Kent is ideally positioned for our business, allowing us to easily access other parts of the country and the continent. Kent is also a very sunny county, making it an excellent location for solar energy."

"We plan to expand our Kent operation over the next three years to replicate our German presence, and in time hope to be able to look for warehouse facilities here."

SunConcept's arrival in Kent was masterminded by inward investment agency Locate in Kent, where chief executive Paul Wookey said: "It's very exciting that Kent is attracting companies like SunConcept, with their knowledge-based, quality jobs and expertise in the renewable ener-

gy sector. The UK's solar energy market is expected to grow considerably over the next few years and Kent is in an excellent position to benefit."

Government incentives mean energy suppliers make payments to householders and communities which generate their own electricity from renewable or low-carbon sources. As a result, a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers report estimated that the country's solar PV (photovoltaic) energy capacity could grow 30 times to reach 1,000MW (megawatts).

SunConcept manufactures its own PV solar modules backed by a planning, installation and investment package and sells directly to customers and other installers, but wants to target owners of agricultural land and commercial roof space, county and district councils, as well as registered social landlords interested in leasing roof space or land in return for free installation of its solar systems.

Those customers then benefit from the free use of electricity generated onsite, but surplus can then be sold on by SunConcept.



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Matt's debt of Hayesbrook's

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INTERVIEW

At a time when many jobless graduates question whether the time and cost of a degree was worth it, entrepreneur Matt Sankey beats the drum for a more vocational approach. He has enhanced the reputation of his family's well-established Tunbridge Wells restaurant, and also developed a new fishmonger business that is making waves across the South East – not bad for a bloke who never really liked school and left at 16. JON COATES tracked him down during yet another hectic week



MATT SANKEY

A YOUNG entrepreneur driving forward a rapidly expanding family business believes failing the 11-plus was the "best thing" that ever happened to him.

After struggling to settle at four private primary schools, Matt Sankey was able to find his feet at a comprehensive.

And he says his time at Hayesbrook in Tonbridge taught him the people-skills needed to take the reins of his family's fish restaurant and bar in Tunbridge Wells, which celebrates its half century of trading next year.

Matt said: "You do not have to have an academic upbringing to succeed in the restaurant and pub industry."

"The most important thing in this industry is people skills. I am not very academic, but I learned how to deal with people from different backgrounds, different upbringings, different financial situations and racial backgrounds at Hayesbrook, which I would not have got at a private school or a grammar."

"Failing the 11 plus and going to Hayesbrook was the best thing that could have happened to me."

Since taking over as manager of the business in Mount Ephraim Road five years ago, he has increased its performance by 20 per cent every year.

And a Sankey's fishmongers, which opened last year, has also proved such a success that he and co-owner Graeme Anderson, 32, are set to open a warehouse to

MATT SANKEY'S CV

- 1996 – left Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge with "a handful of GCSEs"
- 1996 – works in sales at Sunglasses Hut
- 1998 – joins Carphone Warehouse and works up to be a store manager
- 2003 – works for Jota motorsport team in looking after tyres on racing cars
- 2005 – becomes manager of Sankey's pub and restaurant
- 2010 – buys out father to become owner of Sankey's businesses

meet the demand from wholesale trade.

As well as supplying Sankey's bar and restaurant, they are now sourcing quality fish and seafood for 100 other restaurants and nursing homes from Eastbourne in Sussex across to Whitstable in Kent.

But Matt and Graeme are keen that the popularity of the wholesale side of their fishmongers business will not affect the retail side at their shop in Vale Road,



MATT'S EMPIRE: Sankey's bar and restaurant



gratitude to people-skills

Tunbridge Wells.

They will take on 15 new staff to work at the warehouse, adding to the seven already employed at the fishmongers and the 30 employed at Sankey's bar and restaurant. And the man at the helm of Sankey's, who is aged just 30, has ambitious plans for further ventures in the town which are being kept a closely-guarded secret for now.

He said: "Next year we are celebrating 50 years of Sankey's in Tunbridge Wells, which I am so proud of as this a huge achievement for a family business.

"The fishmongers will be expanded. Once we have the warehouse open we will be able to expand the wholesale side of this business and with regards to the pub and restaurant side, there are several blueprints for expansion.

"We are just waiting for the right opportunity to arise, as I am not going to do something for the sake of it. Any plans have to fit in with the brand and be a positive addition to the organisation, like the fishmongers has been."

His grandfather started the family business in 1961 by buying the George and Dragon pub in Speldhurst and creating a restaurant upstairs.

His son, Guy, worked at this restaurant, before working in London and then taking on The Gate in Hildenborough, near the train station.

He turned this into a seafood restaurant called Sankey's at The Gate, before taking over the lease of the Compasses in the same village and turning this into a booming bar and restaurant.

AFTER learning that Sankey's current location in Tunbridge Wells was on the market, Matt's father moved the business there in 1987 and has not looked back.

Matt left school aged 16 with, in his own words, "not many GCSEs" and "no ambition of working in a pub".

He took a sales job at the Sunglasses Hut in Royal Victoria Place, which he says he loved, and then moved on to the Carphone Warehouse in the shopping centre for five years, becoming its manager. After trying his hand as a recruitment consultant he worked for motorsport team Jota, making sure tyre pressures and temperatures were correct on their cars.

But a call from his father Guy five years ago, saying he was thinking of selling the family business to retire, prompted a change of direction, with Matt asking to be given time to learn how to run Sankey's as manager with a view to taking it on.

He bought the business from his father earlier this year, so is now in complete control of the Sankey's empire.

The business has been forced to adapt to changes in recent years, with professional people taking less time for lunches and wanting to spend less, as well as enjoying the informal setting of the bar for food.

And Matt's use of sustainably sourced fish and seafood has also proved popular with customers and the wholesale market.

The new owner, who regularly works 80 to 100 hours a week, says he has been able to drive the business forward because he is passionate about what he is doing and has great managers and staff.

He said: "My philosophy with the pub is that it is very easy to work at a pub and all of a sudden it becomes your lifestyle and one day you end up sitting at the bar, drinking with the locals.

"Some people can do that but I can't. For me it is a job and so when I am here it is work only. I have a drink when I go out socialising, but not here.

"Over the last few years I have brought in a hard work ethic as I wanted to build the business up, but it is a slow progression to make the changes needed over time."

Matt also decided to invest in one of the most important parts of his business, his staff, when the recession hit.

He said: "I realised that if I started making cutbacks I could lose customers for life.

"We are in the service industry, so I actually took on more staff to make sure everyone coming to Sankey's bar and restaurant left saying how great the service was.

"The staff are the last point of contact with customers so are very important in leaving them with a good impression that will keep them coming back."

MATT'S TOP TIPS

- "I believe the two most important parts of your business are you staff and customers. They are the two vital cogs that constantly need oiling"
- "Communication with customers, whether it be via social media, networking or old-fashioned conversation, is vital. Listen to them – they hold the keys"
- "Retail is detail, all the little details add up"
- "I also have the following rules that I stick to, they are not mine but work a treat:

1 Always treat the customer as you yourself would like to be treated

2 Winning an argument with a customer doesn't win anything but the loss of that customer

3 If we don't look after the customer someone else will

4 Always deliver what you promise. If in doubt, under-promise and over-deliver

5 The reputation is in the hands of every individual"



POWER PLAY: Matt Sankey is determined to drive the firm forward



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Food and drink industry builds up to Kent awards

FINALISTS in the Taste of Kent Awards 2010 are just five weeks from hearing which of them will be the county's 12 food and drink heroes, *writes Steve Loader*.

The competition is staged by Produced in Kent, which champions the best food and drink producers, retailers, restaurants, dining pubs and farmers' markets across the "Garden of England".

Last year's awards generated an 89 per cent increase in public votes, and current voting has again exceeded 10,000, this time nominating 542 businesses and products to contest the 12 food and drink 'Oscars'. Some categories have been amended to reflect changing trends and tastes.

Three finalists in each category are now subjected to an expert judging panel and mystery shoppers/diners, and the winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at Leeds Castle on February 25.

Notable 2010 highlights include Kent Seafood Retailer of the Year (sponsored by South East Seafood), which has seen a 50 per cent rise in votes. Independent fishmongers have faced some of the biggest challenges in retailing and South East Seafood was "delighted that voters are supporting local fishmongers".

Best Kentish Brewery of the Year (sponsored



Julie Monkman

by Cask Marque) is another hotly-contested category, with a 28 per cent increase in votes reflecting new interest in brewing after the resurgence of micro breweries in the county. Previous winner Ramsgate Brewery joins the UK's oldest and Kent's largest brewery, Faversham's Shepherd Neame, in the final three, together with Whitstable Brewery, which actually brews near Maidstone.

The newly re-named Kent Dining Pub of the Year category highlights gastro-pubs serving excellent and hearty Kentish food. Votes here rose by 39 per cent resulting in a fierce battle.

New finalists in this category are The George and Dragon in Chipstead, which tackles previous winners The Haywain (2009), near Canterbury, and The Plough (2008), near Faversham. The county has shown itself to

have a sweet tooth so, battling it out for Kent Food Product of the Year (sponsored by Opies), are three expert producers of sweet treats: Madame Oiseau Fine Chocolates being nominated for its Kent Honey Caramel; Blue Bell Hill Apiaries for its Kent Honey; and Kent Fine Foods for its Lavender Jelly.

Excellence

The east of Kent continues to be a centre of excellence in food and drink and Thanet nominees show particular strength in the various category finalists: fishmonger and gourmet fish and chip shop Eddie Gilberts is nominated for Seafood Retailer and for Restaurant of the Year; J C Rooks of Ramsgate is short-listed for Meat Retailer; Ramsgate Brewery is a Best Brewery finalist; Quex Barn is up for Best Local Food Retailer; and Em's Cupcakes of Ramsgate has designs on Artisan Food Producer, but faces local competition from a former winner, The Chai Stop, the Ramsgate Asian cuisine specialist.

Perhaps most impressive of all is Cliftonville Farmers' Market which has reached the top three in the Farmers' Market category for five years on the trot.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent said: "The Taste of Kent Awards continues to go from strength to strength as consumers vote in their thousands to acknowledge some of the best producers and retailers of food and drink."

"All three finalists in each of the 12 categories have done incredibly well to get this far and they all help to maintain and raise the bar for Kent as a county of excellence for food and drink production."

The Taste of Kent Awards (www.taste-ofkentawards.co.uk) is again sponsored overall by Whitehead Monckton Solicitors. Other sponsors include Archant KOS Media, publisher of Kent on Saturday and on Sunday and of Business Week.

THE FULL LIST OF FINALISTS

Meat Retailer:
BUTCHER OF BROGDALE, Faversham
GODMERSHAM GAME, Canterbury
JC ROOK & SON, Ramsgate

Best Brewery:
RAMSGATE BREWERY
SHEPHERD NEAME, Faversham
WHITSTABLE BREWERY, Grafty Green

Best Vineyard:
BIDDEN VINEYARD
CHAPEL DOWN WINERY, Tenterden
MEOPHAM VALLEY VINEYARD

Best Cider Maker:
BIDDEN
BIG TREE CIDER, Hartley
ROUGH OLD WIFE, Canterbury

Juice Producer of the Year:
BIDDEN
CORE FRUIT PRODUCTS, Canterbury
OWLET FRUIT JUICE, Lamberhurst

Local Food Retailer:
HAVEN FARM SHOP, Sutton Valence
MACKNADE FINE FOODS, Faversham
QUEX BARN, Birchington

Seafood Retailer:
EDDIE GILBERT'S, Ramsgate
OCTOPUSY, Whitstable
SANKEY'S, Tunbridge Wells

Food Product of the Year:
KENT HONEY, BLUE BELL HILL APIARIES, Gillingham
KENT HONEY CARAMELS, MADAM OISEAU FINE CHOCOLATES, Canterbury
LAVENDER JELLY, KENT FINE FOODS, Gillingham

Artisan Food Producer:
THE CHAI STOP, Ramsgate
CORINNE'S CREATIVE KITCHEN, Faversham
EM'S CUPCAKES, Ramsgate

Restaurant:
EDDIE GILBERT'S, Ramsgate
MULBERRY TREE, Boughton Monchelsea
SECRET GARDEN, Ashford

Dining Pub:
GEORGE & DRAGON, Chipstead
THE HAYWAIN, Bramling
PLOUGH, Stalisfield

Farmers' Market:
CLIFTONVILLE; HILDENBOROUGH;
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Superfast broadband: Is it arriving quickly enough?

Development of the internet's scope, options and services are fast outstripping the ability of the UK's outmoded and still fragmented broadband network. Yet this area of technology is vital to the economy of Kent and the UK generally as it seeks to rebuild after recession. Business Week editor STEVE LOADER uploads some thoughts on where we are now and where we could end up, and it's a mixed picture – a bit like the one some are getting through their current broadband link...

EVERY business and community has been promised access to superfast broadband by 2015 under latest Government plans.

And it was vital that the Coalition made the pledge this early in its term if it was to stand by its commitment to rebuild a broad-based UK economy.

But it is caught between a rock and hard place: Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt said it wanted the UK's broadband to be the envy of Europe once this new infrastructure is in place, but it will not be cheap and – as we all know – the country is strapped for cash.

The proposal is to borrow the model used successfully by South Korea, which has quickly put in one of the world's best networks – up to 100Mb/sec – by tapping into the ambition and investment of private firms there. But South Korea's economy is one of the healthiest in the world and that's not something we can say about Britain's, and where will the Koreans have got up to when and if we've upgraded from a national average yet to hit 2Mb/sec?

Nevertheless, Coalition ministers calculate that some two-thirds of the new comms network can be funded by private firms, while a dwindling public pot can be raided for the less commercially attractive rural areas – more than £800m is expected to be needed.

Reaction from businesses and the public has been less than ecstatic though, since the previous government had promised a universal 2Mb/sec broadband speed by 2012 – a lifeline to areas saddled with an outmoded dial-up service when so much new broadband-hungry tech is finding its way into homes and businesses.

I spoke with the boss of a hi-tech video firm in his studio last week who was almost punching the desk with frustration while a YouTube video uploaded with glacial speed to his high-spec Mac computer.

But the Government's argument – a not unreasonable one – is that rather than trying to play catch-up by delivering modest speeds already enjoyed by many already, we should aim to leap ahead and become the best in a fast-changing comms environment.

The industry regulator Ofcom recently revealed that fewer than one per cent of homes currently have superfast broadband connection – rated at 24Mb/sec at least.

But the Government has been vague about what it calls 'superfast' and cites other factors as important which, reading between the lines will probably be the fastest and most widespread service it can get for its money and what the private sector is prepared to chip in.

Users are understandably cynical



anyway, since very few get the broadband speeds advertised even now. Why would they expect superfast broadband to deliver what it says?

Several IT gurus have told me rather ruefully: "At least our disappointment would arrive a bit faster if we get all this investment."

There is also the apparently insoluble problem of speeds dropping the further your business or home is from the broadband community hub or exchange.

The suggestion is that many of the

hubs in any new network will use speedy fibre-optics in their immediate areas, thereby extending the reach and speed of services to more outlying locations that remain connected using older connections.

Even this looks like fudging the issue, though, when some European neighbours like Holland are now going 'fully optical'.

However, the cost of that approach is probably prohibitive and unrealistic in a larger country like ours and with a far more dispersed population and industry than that of the Netherlands. The real concern is that we will continue to get the patchwork quilt we have now, with the private sector reluctant to invest any more than it has to, while focusing more on just economic survival.

Meanwhile, areas which have been identified as 'needy' such as the wilds of Wales and Scotland, will attract public and EU funding and leapfrog ahead.

One further possibility is a local initiative like that in Cornwall.

Most businesses in the Duchy – long regarded as a depressed area overly reliant on a fickle tourist industry – will have access to 100Mb/sec fibre optic broadband by 2014 after announcing a groundbreaking £132m partnership between BT and Cornwall County Council and backed by some EU cash.

It is estimated the project will create or protect some 6,000 jobs. BT is now championing this partnership approach as a widespread solution.

Food for thought here in Kent?



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NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on finance

TALKS A GOOD GAME

We talk to the Chatham heavyweight who is hoping to keep climbing the ladder to boxing's big time



Interview with
DAVID PRITCHARD

THE NATURE of heavyweight boxing means fighters' egos are usually as much a part of the sport as what happens in the ring.

As Audley Harrison proved in getting a world title shot against David Haye last year, rampant self-promotion and a near-delusional self-belief can take you a long way, even if you are not planning to throw too many punches.

In that context Tom Dallas' approach comes as a bit of a shock. The antithesis of Harrison and Haye's in-your-face brands, it is easy to forget the gentle giant is a highly-rated boxer on course for a national title attempt in a few months.

The 25-year-old's description of how he almost fell into the world of professional boxing is typical of his laid-back outlook.

"I first went down the gym when I was 10 and as soon as I went in I loved it and I've been there ever since," he said. "I don't know what it was about it that got me hooked. I was always hyperactive as a kid so going down the boxing gym kept me out of trouble, I suppose.

"I started having fights and as an amateur I stopped quite a few of them. I was just seeing how it went; I wasn't doing it with a view to going professional or anything. I just boxed because I enjoyed it, but when I started winning quite a lot of fights and was stopping people I thought 'I might have a go at turning pro and see what happens'. It's going quite well at the minute."

Dallas' management may want to hype that last sentence up a little when promoting him. Fortunately for them the Chatham fighter's fists do all the talking and he remains undefeated more than two years after turning professional.

Just 28 rounds have been required to win his 12 fights so far, nine of which have come via knockout. Slowly but surely Dallas, who until recently has been playing regional league rugby with Gravesend, has crept up the rankings, to the point where he is now on the brink of becoming one of Britain's top-10 heavyweights.

Ahead of a planned homecoming fight in Medway later in the spring, his next bout is in a fortnight against Zambian champion Francis Zulu. The 36-year-old has won 15



Picture: STEVE EASTMENT

ON THE ROPES: Experienced Lee Swaby (left) is dispatched inside a round last year

of his 20 fights, most recently in a Commonwealth title eliminator which went the distance.

It marks another rung on the ladder for Dallas, who has high hopes 2011 could be the year he makes the transition from rising star to achieve wider success.

"I've got a fight in February and another in March, so I'm hoping to fight quite a few times this year," he said. "Hopefully, I'll be able to fight for a national title or at least a title eliminator by the end of the year."

"I think every fight I'm getting better; I just take each fight as it comes and hopefully I can stay undefeated. It's something I'm very proud of because I hate losing. If I threw a penny up the wall and lost that I'd be gutted, I just hate losing so for me it's important to stay undefeated. Obviously my next fight is a step up in class and hopefully it will keep going like that."

While he may not yet be a household name, Dallas has caught the attention of

FACT FILE

NAME: Tom Dallas

AGE: 25

HEIGHT: 6ft 6ins

PROFESSIONAL DEBUT: September 2008

PROFESSIONAL RECORD: won 12

(nine by KO) lost 0 drawn 0

Big Tom not one to shout from the rooftops

RISING STAR: Unbeaten Tom Dallas hopes to land his first title shot in the coming months



Picture: ADY KERRY

several who are. Standing at 6ft 6ins he has become a valuable sparring partner for heavyweights preparing to take on the division's tallest fighters.

Haye used him in the build-up to his WBA world title fight against Nikolay Valuev in November, 2009. There were plans for more sessions, but the cancellation of the eagerly-awaited meeting with Vladimir Klitschko has put it on hold for the moment.

There were also offers before Christmas from Dereck Chisora, who is due to take on the giant Ukrainian, and Poland's Albert Sosnowski, but training commitments forced Dallas to turn them down.

This week, former Olympic bronze medalist and fellow undefeated pro, David Price, made a 400-mile round-trip from Liverpool just for a sparring session and intends to make it a regular event.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of Dallas' rise is it has come while holding

down a full-time job as a roofer. The dual commitments can cause problems, although he hopes it will not be long before he leaves the ladders behind.

"It is hard in parts because a lot of professionals spar at around midday, so I have to try and arrange for time off work or change it to the evening," he said. "It can be a bit difficult, but you just juggle things around."

"It would be nice to do it full-time instead of going up and down roofs all day long. I reckon by the end of the year if things go well, or if we can get a sponsor, I'll be able to go full-time so I'll be able to just concentrate on the boxing. It would help because sometimes when I spar in the evening it's come after I've been carrying tiles up and down all day and I feel a bit tired. If I could just focus on the boxing it would be a lot easier."

Given Dallas' penchant for understatement, his rivals better watch out.

County test for new tour

A NEW golf tournament will be held in Kent later this year in what organisers hope will help pave the way for a nationwide tour for over-35s.

The South East of England Mid Amateur Stroke Play Championship will be held at Rochester & Cobham Park on May 5.

It will be open to all male golfers with a handicap of nine or less and held over 36 holes at the parkland course.

The concept is to provide good quality competition for over-35s whose game is not quite up to standard to enter the top amateur tournaments.

Jason Morris, golf director at organiser Wyncanton Marketing Services, said: "The standard of amateur golf is now such, that unless you hold a handicap of scratch or better you stand little or no chance of entering some of the more prestigious events around



Picture: ADY KERRY

TOURNAMENT: The new event will be held at Rochester & Cobham Park in May

the country and players are left in a golfing wilderness."

Mid-amateur events are held at a handful of clubs in the region, but if the event in May is a success the plan is to set up a series across the country.

Swiss success for Williams

KENT showjumper Guy Williams cemented his reputation as the country's top rider with three fine performances at last weekend's international meeting in Switzerland.

Riding Toronto Van De Middelstede, his 15-year-old bay gelding, Williams claimed second-place in the 1.45m speed class on the first day of competition in Basel.

The pair then produced their best display of the weekend with a stylish win in the 1.50m accumulator class and with a third-placed finish in the 1.45m class on the final day, he pocketed winnings of almost £14,000.

Williams, who lives near Canterbury, won last year's Hickstead Derby on Skip Two Ramiro and he has represented Great Britain at the Nations Cup eight times.

Following his successful trip to Switzerland, he continues to top the Team GB top rider ranking list.



Picture: KATHRYN PEARN

RUNNER-UP: Guy Williams in Switzerland

City club run on community spirit

After five years of playing their rugby in the National League, **STEVE TERVET** reports on why Canterbury will not give up their fight to be Kent's second-biggest side, despite facing an uphill task to compete financially

LIFE in rugby's National League is placing an increasing financial strain on Canterbury, who are looking to protect their community ethos in a division dominated by expensive first-teams.

As a group of clubs spend big to fight their way out of National 2 South, Canterbury will simply be happy to consolidate their league place after years of scrapping in the London leagues and below.

For the first time since taking over as head coach, Danny Vaughan was unable to make significant changes to his squad last summer, relying instead on home-grown players from further down the club.

Progress

Canterbury chairman Giles Hilton admits there is no way the club can look to progress up the rugby pyramid in the immediate future, with their financial resources already channelled across such a wide base.

"Without a doubt, the league's breaking itself down by money," he said. "We don't have a rocky financial background, but if you look at what we're paying, it's all focused towards trying to run a full community rugby club, not just a National League side."

"We are what we are: a community rugby club that has risen up the leagues and we've got to stay there, but we do lack a little bit of funding."

On the field, Canterbury are battling to keep themselves clear of the relegation dogfight, although Vaughan has not been surprised by the nature of his team's campaign.

"We've had to develop players and bring them through," he said. "This is the first time since I've been here we haven't gone out in the summer for a lot of players. Financially there's not the money there this season that there was before."

With Taunton, Bristol and Jersey among the long trips to be negotiated during the season, Canterbury supporters are finding it increasingly difficult to follow their side around the country in any great numbers.

Recalling the days of local derbies against Ashford and Thanet Wanderers, Hilton admitted there was a case to be made for sustaining the club more easily at a lower level.

However, having helped establish Canterbury as Kent's second-biggest side behind Blackheath, he is not prepared to relinquish the status without a fight.

"There might be a number of off-field people who would like to see us drop down a league because very few supporters will travel the distances," Hilton said.



BATTLE: Canterbury coach Danny Vaughan (inset) has had to bring local players through to help club in fight to avoid relegation

"The target must be to remain as a National League club, though. We had to be massively professional to haul ourselves out of the London leagues and it was a pretty triumphant moment when we did it."

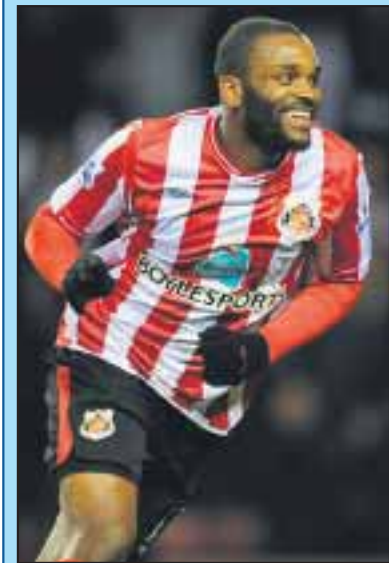
While more clubs at regional level are now splashing out on players good enough to fire them into the national spotlight, Hilton promised Canterbury's focus would remain on developing home-grown talent irrespective of league positions.



Kent sport stars have their say on

twitter

The pick of this week's tweets from the county's sports stars



HAPPY MAN: No wonder Darren Bent is all smiles after £18m move to Aston Villa

THE TRANSFER window has yet to have any affect on the Gillingham squad, but Darren Bent's big money move to Aston Villa had veteran defender Matt Lawrence pondering how better to invest the fee. @mattyjlawrence: "£18m for Darren Bent?? I'll take 36 Charlie Adams' instead. No, sod that; I'll take 11 Charlie Adams and keep the change!!!"

A trio of Kent players helped England's women pile more misery on Australian cricket as they wrapped up a 4-1 win in their Twenty20 series. The celebrations must have been good because, as batsman Susie Rowe revealed, they temporarily lost the trophy. @susierowe6: "On our way to Sydney... slightly concerned that no one knows where the trophy is!"

Before later adding, with more than a touch of relief: "Trophy has been located underneath the bus thankfully. Almost in Sydney, can't wait to go to the beach...it's looking a little cloudy though."

Former British road racing champion Kristian House, from Canterbury, is back in training for the new season and is getting a lot of support from motorists.

@kristianhouse: "Just wanted to say thanks to the dude in the black truck out on nameless road who was pretty clear on telling me I was number 1. Very kind of you. Although...a bit weird you chose to tell me using your middle finger."

Our resident Dame has been using her Twitter army to help out with the naming of a new fitness DVD she has coming out.

@clamekellyholmes: "Thanks everyone, a real mix of opinions of whether I should have Dame Kelly Holmes or Kelly Holmes on fitness DVD pls keep thoughts coming."

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around the county



STEP UP: Steven Tiley says the strength in depth separates European Tour from others

It's tough on Tour, says Tiley

ONE OF the newest European Tour recruits admits making the step up from the Challenge Tour left him like a "rabbit in the headlights".

Steven Tiley earned his card for this season after performing well at qualifying school last month.

The 28-year-old from Herne Bay is no rookie, with two years spent on the satellite Challenge Tour and two appearances at The Open Championship under his belt.

He was briefly among the leaders at St Andrews last year, but it still did not prepare him for the week-to-week life as a European Tour professional.

Tiley, who represents Royal Cinque Ports in Deal, has played in three events so far and while he has shot no worse than a 76, he is yet to make a cut.

He said: "The first couple of weeks I was a bit overawed. My coach wanted me to get the rabbit in the headlights out of my system, hopefully that will go and it will get a bit more comfortable. It's like your first day at school."

"The standard isn't that much better but there are more people playing at that level. On the Challenge Tour you might have 10 people who can win, but on the European Tour everyone has the ability to – the strength in depth is so much better. It's like going from League One to the Premier League."

Tiley's exemption does not allow him access to the very top events on tour, so he will spend the next month honing his game ahead of a return at the Avantha Masters in India.

COUNTDOWN TO THE OPEN

172 DAYS UNTIL THE OPEN – 172 IS THE LENGTH IN YARDS OF THE SIXTH HOLE AT ROYAL ST GEORGE'S. KNOWN AS 'THE MAIDEN', THE GREEN OF THE PAR THREE IS CLOSELY GUARDED BY FOUR BUNKERS



QUALIFIER: Dutchman Floris de Vries

THREE more Open Championship places at Royal St George's were filled this week following International Final Qualifying for Africa.

Floris de Vries, Martin Maritz, and Neil Schietekat claimed the coveted spots for Sandwich in what will be the trio's first taste of a major championship.

De Vries' long trip from the Netherlands paid off handsomely as he cruised to victory at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club on Thursday.

After signing for a seven-under-par first round of 64 to take a share of the overnight lead, the 21-year-old booked his place with a 68 in the second round.

"It feels really great," he said. "I sort of knew after the first round that I could do it as I was playing really well, but it's a great feeling and I can't wait. I wish it was next week already."

Maritz has only recently returned to competing full-time after three years as a club professional in the United States. The 33-year-old South African shot rounds of 69 and 67 to claim a share of second place, along with compatriot Schietekat.

The latter had a scare with a bogey at the 16th hole, but a birdie at the last ensured a safe passage for the 26-year-old to the tournament in July.





CALL-UP: Kent spinner James Tredwell

Treddy picked for World Cup squad

JAMES Tredwell has been included in England's 15-man squad for next month's ICC World Cup, but there's no place for Kent team-mate Darren Stevens.

The Kent pair were both selected in England's provisional 30-man squad for the World Cup in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, which starts on February 19, but all-rounder Stevens missed out as the selectors opted to include the likes of Paul Collingwood, Luke Wright and Tim Bresnan.

However, Tredwell will go to the subcontinent with the squad as one of three specialist spin bowlers, together with Graeme Swann and Michael Yardy.

Geoff Miller, England's national selector, said: "With spin bowlers set to play a prominent role in this World Cup we feel we have quality and depth in Graeme Swann, Michael Yardy and James Tredwell who have all shown their capabilities at international level.

"With this tournament being staged on the subcontinent the conditions will require a specific style of cricket and we feel that we've selected a squad that can prosper in these conditions."

England play their first game against the Netherlands in Nagpur on February 22.

Clifford moves to allay contract fears

Negotiations continue with several Kent players

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT chief executive Jamie Clifford insists he is "not concerned" that several players are yet to sign new contracts with the county.

While there have been no exits over the winter period, only Darren Stevens and Ashley Shaw have signed contract extensions so far. The club have been working hard during the off season, negotiating with players and in some cases their agents, and Clifford believes the county will start the season with the contract situation sorted out.

"We are not concerned at this stage," he said. "Darren Stevens was an important one to nail down early and we got that done. We have made offers to others and we are now working through that.

"There are negotiations, so it's not just 'here you go, sign it' sometimes you are going through an agent, sometimes a player might be overseas and it's difficult to contact them.

"It just takes time, we don't believe we are creating a problem for ourselves, we think where we are at this stage of the year will leave us with a structure going into the season with players in contract, players out of contract and players on longer term contracts, and that gives us a nice balance.

"What we would say is that it's a managed process, we have a plan and we're working through that and that comes to a conclusion when the players report back for pre-season training, we hope to have it sorted by then and then we move on."

Nine players are out of contract at the end of the 2011 season. While some are unlikely



Picture: ADY KERRY

NO CONCERN: Jamie Clifford says Kent are still in discussions with players such as Matt Coles (left) over signing new contracts to stay at St Lawrence beyond this year

to be offered extensions, others may earn new deals on the back of their performances this summer.

Clifford hinted that four of those had been made an offer – Matt Coles, Joe Denly, Sam Northeast and Alex Blake – and the club are waiting to hear back as to whether they intend to sign.

He said: "We are making efforts with Blake, Coles, Northeast and Denly. Those are the four that we are working through; some are closer than others.

"There is a plan, it's not just haphazard and hoping that randomly everything will fall into place, I have been working with Farby [director of cricket, Paul Farbrace], the cricket committee and the chairman of cricket and we'll get it done."

The club's chief executive didn't want to be drawn on whether the likes of Simon Cook, Robbie Joseph, James Goodman, Dewald Nel and Azhar Mahmood have yet been offered new deals, explaining that he felt it wasn't right to discuss ongoing negotiations with players.

"We have conversations with players about their futures all the time," he said. "Some we have had conversations with, but we have a responsibility to them to manage their expectations and their careers and there is nothing more de-motivating than hearing your club do not intend to make an offer of continued employment.

"That would be true of whatever job you do. At this stage those discussions will go on between us and the player."

TEAM TALKS:

Adrian Quaife-Hobbs looks to have missed out on a GP2 seat



Wheeling and dealing

IT MAY be months before a wheel is turned in anger, but drivers and teams are working feverishly behind the scenes to confirm their 2011 plans.

Tunbridge Wells-based team Jota Sport have been one of the busiest, as they took delivery of a brand new Aston Martin GT2 car this week.

Co-owners and drivers Sam Hancock and Simon Dolan plan to take on the world's best in the Le Mans Series. The team have also applied for a place on the prestigious Le Mans 24 Hours and are expecting to learn their fate next month.

Elsewhere, sports car and single-seater racer Jonathan Kennard has been confirmed as the official Formula Two test driver and is edging closer to a deal for a second season in the highly rated Le Mans Series.

The 25-year-old from Tunbridge Wells switched to sports car racing last season with success and is hoping to secure a deal by the end of next week to race in the Le Mans Series.

Adrian Quaife-Hobbs' hopes of moving to GP2 – the Formula One feeder series – look to have vanished after he missed out on a seat at the Italian Scuderia Coloni outfit.

The Tonbridge driver will switch his attentions on netting a drive in either Formula Renault 3.5 or GP3.

Goudhurst's Jake Hill looks likely to be lining up on the grid in a Ginetta G50 for the newly-formed Ginetta GT Super Cup.

The 17-year-old finished runner-up in the Ginetta Junior Championship last season and a race seat could be secured by the end of the month.

Injuries force Mos ace to put career on ice for now

A PROMISING young ice hockey player has been forced to hang up his skates for at least the rest of this season as he attempts to recover from a serious car crash.

It is almost a year since Ryan Giles snapped his right femur in the accident, which kept him in hospital for two weeks.

After six months of hard work he returned to the ice in time to take his place in the Invicta Dynamos side for the new season.

But it was not the end of the 20-year-old's problems and his performances have been restricted by a titanium bar running from his right knee to his hip.

The defenceman reluctantly informed his team-mates last weekend he was putting his career on hold, and received a standing ovation from the crowd after last Sunday's game against Oxford.

He said: "I've lost five or six inches on my stride, which means you have a different centre of gravity. I haven't got the same speed so I've had such a frustrating season and I'm gutted to have to make this decision."

The Maidstone-born player has been with the Mos almost continuously since joining their under-10s. Along with head coach Kevin Parrish he runs the club's junior set-up, a role which will continue.

The bar is due to be removed from his leg in the next few weeks, but it is not known if



Picture: DAVID TREVALION

FRUSTRATED: Ryan Giles has put his career on hold in a bid to recover from his injuries

he will be able to reach the same levels on the ice again.

The club remain optimistic and have offered Giles a position as assistant coach in the interim to keep him involved with the first team set-up.

By DAVID PRITCHARD

IT IS easy to think the impact of a football club starts and finishes with the first-team's result on a Saturday, but Gillingham's community department is working hard to show how they take on a much wider social role.

Part-funded by the Football League Trust, all clubs in the Championship, League One and League Two have a responsibility to run programmes for the benefit of their local areas.

There is a broad remit and Gillingham's coaches visit up to 40 schools a week to cover a range of topics, from healthy lifestyle to anti-racism.

Pete Sayer has been involved at Priestfield for 10 years and is now the Gills' head of community. He believes the work is a win-win for both the schools and the club.

"The club realise how important the links with the local community are and we try to make sure the club is accessible as possible to as many people as possible," he said.

"It's a two-way street, we do as much work as we can for the schools and it boosts our profile in the community and raises the interest in the club.

"It's easier to have the interest in the club when it's in the Championship than when it's in League Two, but I still believe there is masses of support round here for the club and we've never gone into a school that have said they don't want us."

Many school visits also include a player. Last week midfielder Jack Payne, who grew up in Rochester, visited Sherwin Knight Junior School in Strood as part of an anti-

Community spirit

Gillingham strive to give something back

bullying session, which saw the 19-year-old quizzed by the students.

Mark Dawson, head teacher at the school, summed up the value of such visits.

He said: "It's important as a community we work together to try and beat bullying. With the help of Gillingham, who act as role models for the children, we aim to do this. As soon as the pupils heard a Gills player was coming to their school there was huge excitement."

While some players can be reluctant to go and talk to a group of schoolchildren, Sayer says the vast majority enjoy the experience and come back for more.

In a world where both players and football clubs are viewed with increasing cynicism, the 32-year-old Gills fan is keen to emphasise the force for good the community work can be, which can often get overlooked.

Sayer said: "A lot of people knock Gillingham for being in League Two but we've got a lot of pride in what we do and without the club we wouldn't have anything, it would just be some guys in tracksuits going into schools. People pick up papers to read scandal and bad news stories in football. It's not often you'll get a positive story on the back page of a newspaper and I think a lot of the work we do maybe does go under the radar at times. It's important to push what we do as much as possible."



BACK TO SCHOOL: Gills midfielder Jack Payne visited a junior school last week



SHOW OF RESPECT: Gills support new FA campaign

Gills back new FA Respect club

FOOTBALL fans are being urged to show their support for a new initiative from the Football Association aimed at tackling bad behaviour from fans and players.

Respect FC has been launched to unite fans against the more unsavoury sides of the sport. The 'club' will be made up of fans from across the country concerned about abuse towards referees and poor behaviour in the

stands from the top level all the way down to park football.

For every fan that joins Respect FC at www.RespectFootballClub.com the FA has pledged to put £1 back into the initiative to spend on grass roots football, up to £50,000.

The symbol of support for the new club is the white scarf, as worn by Gillingham's squad this week.

Stephanie Gadd, Kent FA's respect

officer, said: "I'm really excited about Respect FC. It's a unique and fun way to unite people against the ugly side of football and reiterates that everyone has their part to play in tackling poor behaviour and protecting our great game."

Members of the club will be able to vote online at the end of the season to decide how the money would be best spent.

Stones step up the hunt for investors

MAIDSTONE United's search for potential investors to help construct a new stadium in the county town this year is gathering momentum.

The Ryman Premier League club, who have been exiled from Maidstone since 1992, launched a new fundraising scheme last week to raise £1.2 million to build a stadium at James Whatman Way.

Despite the initiative being in its infancy, the club have already received positive feedback from one potential investor.

A proposed move to James Whatman Way has been the club's plan for several years, but construction work is yet to begin on the site.

As a result of the new scheme, Maidstone co-owners Terry Casey and Oliver Ash say the club need to raise the £1.2 million target required to construct the 3,000 capacity stadium by the end of April. The majority of the funds are expected to come from busi-

nesses and investors purchasing shares in Maidstone United Ground Ltd. A £150,000 investment equates to a six per cent share in the company.

Since the launch of the project, the club have organised three meetings with potential investors next week and have reached an agreement in principal with one company. The overall cost of the ground is expected to reach £1.6 million, but Ash and Casey have vowed to invest £250,000 in the venture, alongside a £150,000 Football Foundation grant.

General manager Bill Williams said: "We've made three appointments next week and we have seen one person who has agreed to support it in principal. It won't be announced until all the legalities have been agreed. It's quite positive."

The club are due to meet with supporters on February 5 to discuss how they can be involved in the fund-raising process.

Conflicting reports over Bromley boss Goldberg's Hayes Lane exit

QUESTIONS continue to hang over Hayes Lane this weekend following Mark Goldberg's decision to call time on his reign as Bromley manager.

Goldberg walked away before last Saturday's game against Basingstoke Town, claiming an internal dispute surrounding team selection issues had forced him to quit.

However, head coach Hayden Bird, who has since taken charge of the first-team, insisted Bromley's dreadful run of results had been the only factor in Goldberg's departure.

In a statement, Goldberg described "an ongoing conflict in-house on how and who should play first-team football, which made my position as manager untenable".

However, Bird, who previously served as Goldberg's assistant, disputed the claims and instead pointed to a record of just three wins from Goldberg's last 15 league games in charge.

"Unfortunately, as a manager, results dictate everything," said



CONFLICT? Mark Goldberg's reasons for leaving have been questioned by head coach Hayden Bird, who has stepped in since his departure

Bird. "I read Mark's statement, it spoke about internal issues, but the issues were the results. You can't deny that over a number of weeks, Bromley didn't win enough football matches and when that happens, it's natural for the owner and the manager to be in conversation."

Goldberg left Bromley sitting in the Conference South play-off positions but having played more games

than the clubs around them, the Lillywhites look certain to drop down the promotion pecking-order.

"I had ambitions for the club and I'm sad I'm not able to fulfil them," he told Kent on Sunday. "I enjoyed my time at Bromley and I feel I was gaining the right sort of experience to take them into the next level. I'm disappointed I didn't achieve what I wanted to."

ZULQ LASHINGS MOVE BACK ON

Exiled Pakistan wicketkeeper offered deal as red tape is cut



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EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID PRITCHARD

A MOVE for former Pakistan wicketkeeper Zulqarnain Haider to Lashings is back on – providing a work permit is approved.

A contract to play for the World XI cricket club, based in Maidstone, has been formally offered, but it is dependent on the exiled 24-year-old obtaining the relevant documents.

Zulqarnain made global headlines in November when he fled to the UK claiming he and his family had received death threats from an alleged match-fixing ring following his refusal to throw Pakistan's fourth One-Day International with South Africa in Dubai.

The news that Lashings have offered Zulqarnain a contract marks a change from the club's position following meetings between club chairman David Folb and the player in London last month.

In the aftermath of the discussions at the Queen's Club, Folb told Kent on Sunday the amount of red tape meant a deal could not be reached at that stage.

Permission

But the bureaucratic hurdles no longer seem so insurmountable, to the point where the Lashings chief is confident an agreement can be reached.

He said: "If the paperwork is all kosher and he has a work permit we're prepared to give him a contract. We will be writing to the ECB [England and Wales Cricket Board] to ask for their permission and once we receive that we'll give him a contract, that's our formal offer. We just want to make sure all the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed.

"As far as I understand it's just his work permit [which is needed]. We've met a couple of times and discussed things and I'm perfectly happy to give him a con-

tract as a batsman/wicketkeeper for Lashings, provided all the paperwork stacks up."

There are no great time pressures from Lashings' point of view on finalising the deal. Their next commitment is in March at the Emirates Palace Cricket Festival in Abu Dhabi, but with a team already selected Zulqarnain would not be involved even if he had signed.

The earliest he could make his debut would be the club's first game of the English summer, which is against Rockhampton Cricket Club in Gloucestershire on May 27.

Zulqarnain's move to claim asylum in the UK at the end of last year, incurred criticism from a succession of high-profile names in Pakistan, including the 1992 World Cup winning captain Imran Khan and limited overs skipper Shahid Afridi.

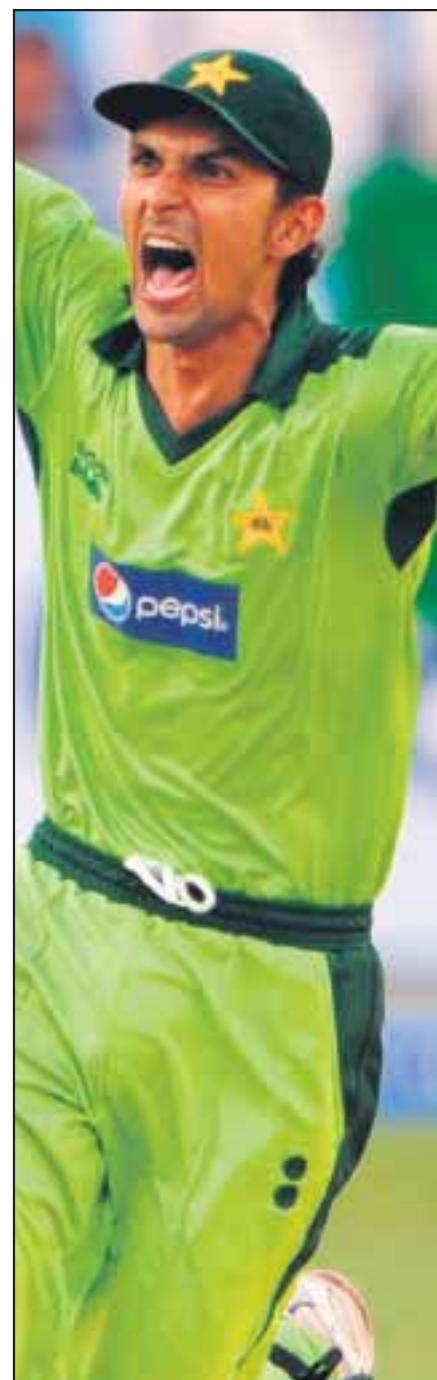
Although admitting he is unsure of what actually happened, Folb is looking to move on.

He said: "I've got no reservations as long as the ECB are comfortable with him playing. I believe little of what I read in the press, I've listened to him and other stories and I neither believe nor don't believe. I'm not interested in that story; all I'm interested in is running a cricket team.

"As long as there are no black marks over anybody's heads, because we are going around promoting the sport, then the player is welcome to join."

Zulqarnain admitted this week he had run out of money, accusing the Pakistan Cricket Board of withholding his wages – something the organisation have declined to comment on.

There are rumours of interest from English county sides, although there is no evidence to suggest it is more than idle speculation. Folb does believe though if the wicketkeeper, who made his Test debut against England last summer, will receive offers if he hits form for Lashings, in which case the club would release him from any contract.



NEW HOPE: Lashings are confident of signing ex-Pakistan wicketkeeper Zulqarnain Haider

Olympic boss praises school's facilities

A SPORTS venue in Kent has been held up as a shining example of sporting excellence by an important figure in the British Olympic Association (BOA).

Andy Hunt, chief executive of the BOA, visited Tonbridge School on Tuesday for a tour of the facilities which Athletics Australia will use as their pre-Games training camp before competing in the Olympics in London next summer.

Shown around the grounds by Andy Whittall, Tonbridge's director of sport, Hunt admitted the quality of resources had come as a surprise to him, but offered a ringing endorsement of the reception awaiting the Australians.

"I had no idea these facilities existed," he said. "I'd heard about Tonbridge School, but they truly are superb. They look to me to be best-in-class and I can really see why Athletics Australia have selected Tonbridge School as their base in preparation for 2012.



SOME SITE: BOA chief Andy Hunt (far left) during his recent visit and (right) a birdseye view of the facilities at Tonbridge School



"It really is a fantastic model, an example to other schools in the country."

The school is also hoping to attract a top-level hockey nation. With two water-based astroturf pitches and a full-size indoor facility, Tonbridge believe they have the capability of hosting London 2012 medal hopefuls, although no deals have yet been struck.

Hunt added: "I think Kent has really embraced the London 2012 Games for the Olympics and Paralympics.

"They were right out of the starters blocks very early on, not only embracing the economic opportunity, but supplying young people with the opportunity to get involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Games and it's very impressive."